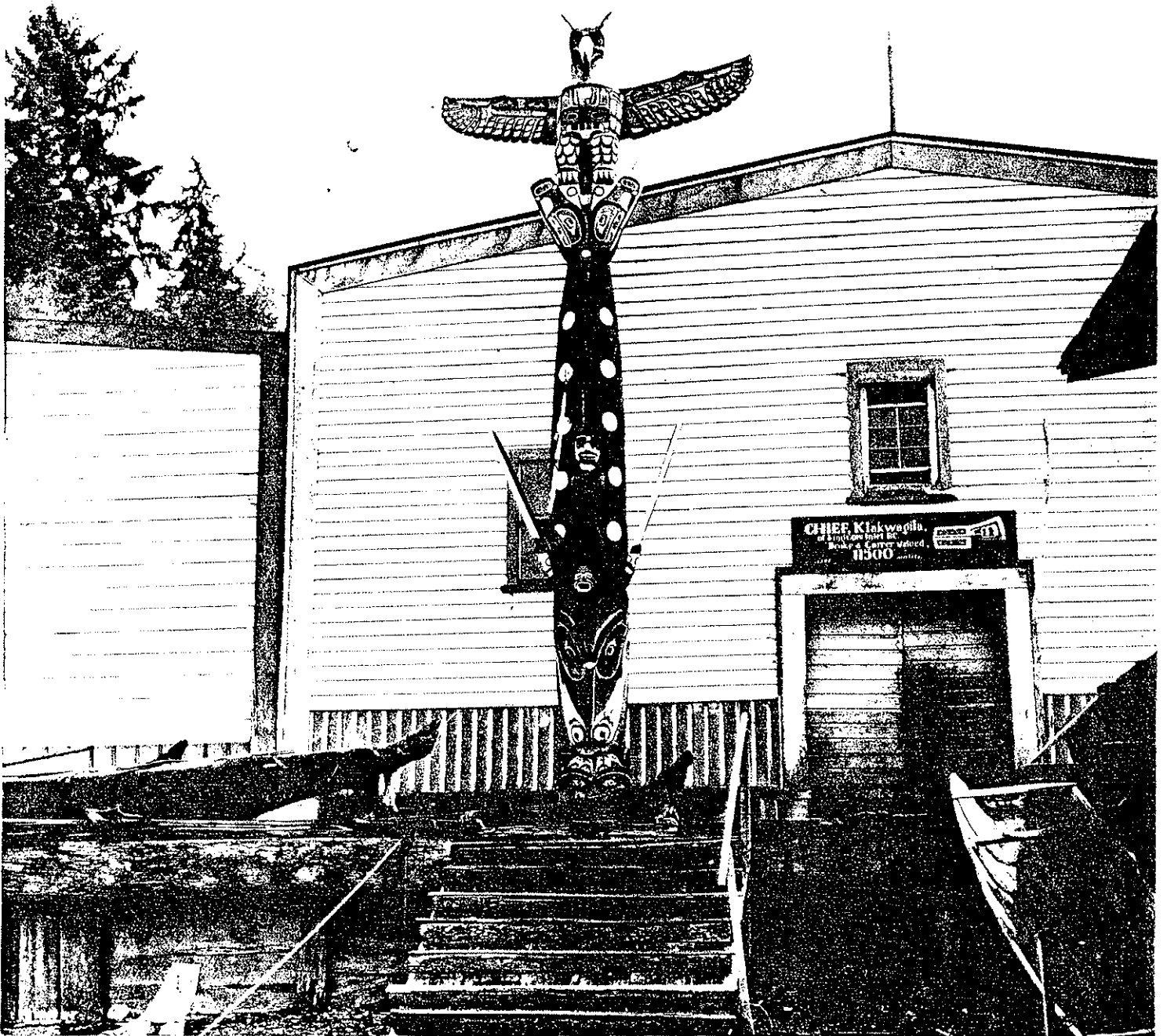


# U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



Photograph from the Collection of the American Museum of Natural History, taken in Alert Bay, 1910.

Above the door, the sign reads: "Chief Klakwagila of Kingcome Inlet, B.C. Broke a copper valued 11500 blankets."

## JULY 1982

U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE  
NEWSLETTER

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As a number of developments have taken place since our last newsletter in April, we wanted our members to know of these.

THE BIG HOUSE

Unfortunately, our application to the First Citizens' Fund for help in renovating the Big House was rejected. However, we are hopeful that the District Office of Indian Affairs will be able to provide some of the required funding for at least part of the work needed.

CULTURAL CENTRE STAFF

Under a Federal summer employment programme, Adam Webber, Bernice Wilson and Patrick Alfred have been hired to work on the wall map exhibit in Gallery IV. Through the generosity of the Kwagu'ł District Council, we have an additional position which has been filled by Connie Skinner. Her job will be to produce a compilation of reference materials available for each band in the District Council.

Vera Cranmer, T.D. Nelson, Emma Dick and Nancy Blythe are members who have volunteered to help during the busy time of cruise ship visits. This group, small but enthusiastic, has had an orientation session and more are planned throughout the summer.

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WE GOT IT!

We are happy to report the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the National Museums of Canada advised us that our request for funds to complete our film project had been approved for an amount up to \$20,000.00.

Incidentally, at a reception for the Trustees of the National Museums in June, your Chairman and curator were able to thank Dr. Murphy and other Board members in person, for the support of the National Museums, not only in public programme funding, but also for our film project. The reception provided an opportunity to extend another invitation to the Chairman and Board of Trustees of the corporation to visit us and we can look forward to welcoming them some time next year.

"This is the second time I've been here. Again, I am am impressed and moved by the power of the works in the museum. Last year, I saw the masks used in the dances. The dances were as splendid and complex as the National Ballet. I never knew that Indian Art was as highly evolved and wonderful as anything in the world. This is an important place. I appreciate the effort and courage it took to have the faith to put it together. Thank you."

"Fabulous collection! I hope you get the rest back as well."

"A credit to those who cared enough to nurture their culture."

There you are, Members - doesn't it feel good to be part of something that makes people respond so positively?

#### INDIAN EDUCATION WORKSHOP

This workshop, plans for which we reported in April, took place on July 3rd and 4th. Instead of the twenty people originally expected to participate, there were fifty, including resource people. There were good discussions during the two days, and a night in the Big House, at which time, students in the Cultural Programme in the Alert Bay School demonstrated their skills, under the able direction of Vera Cranmer. The final day of the workshop ended with a banquet, organized by Charlene Alfred.

The whole event went very well and we owe a great deal to our members and staff, who worked so hard to make it as successful as possible. Of course, Gwanti'lakw's clam chowder was up to its usual high standard, as was Ada's moose-vegetable soup.

Thank you, everyone, for your help - this was the second successful workshop in our Centre. If things ever really get tough, we could go into the catering business! Let's hope that won't be necessary.

#### BUTTONS - BUTTONS - BUTTONS - BUTTONS - BUTTONS - BUTTONS

Some time ago, members were asking about where real pearl buttons might be obtained. We have several sources and right now, are able to purchase buttons in quantity, BUT, we need to have some idea from interested members, how many, what sizes and who wants them. Please phone the office and, as soon as we have a good sized order, we can go ahead.

The same kind of arrangement may be made for bulk purchases of melton cloth and red flannel - so, let us know.

From Frank Tikalsky, an anthropologist who visited us from Montana, a copy of his book, "The Grand Canyon".

A cannon, dated 1810, and given to the late Moses Alfred as a potlatch gift many years ago, was moved to the Cultural Centre, finally. As some of you may know, it had been on extended loan to the Alert Bay Library/Museum, but Axu and her family felt that the proper place for it was the U'mista Cultural Centre. Jack Rippingale of Fort Rodd Hill Historic Site has been asked to track down whatever information might be available on cannons of this type and also to advise us on the best way to build a mount for it.

We are grateful for these gifts and are especially happy that the cannon has come home. We want to thank Simon Beans and Jerry Alfred for bringing this very heavy object to our storage area. They were helped by Tommy Speck, Bruce Alfred, Wayne Alfred and Graham Beresford.

#### FOUND

Recently, a large kerfed box was found in the vicinity of the Cultural Centre by James Smith, who brought it in. The R.C.M.P. have no record of such a box having been reported as stolen. We have also contacted the British Columbia Provincial Museum to find out if any of its staff have information about the theft of a box, but, so far, we have not heard. If any of our members can help us, please call.

#### THE SIGNS

During the summer, people often build fires in front of 'Nangis House and the Cultural Centre. We were concerned about the possibility of fires being left unattended and spreading, so the Nimpkish Band Council was approached and it approved the erection of signs restricting fires and picnicking near our building. We hope our members will ensure that these restrictions are observed, for the safety and protection of our building and collections.

#### Sabadzawe'

The Cultural Society recently purchased a print of "In the Land of the War Canoes", although a print should probably have been donated to us, if those who are now benefitting from the sales of the film wanted to recognize the contribution of our people to the success of the film.

In any case, members are invited to see the film at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 24th in the Cultural Centre. After the film, one of Pudłidi's famous wine and cheese parties will take place and we hope you'll all come and enjoy the evening with us.