U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 1982



Windle Control 1982

The Latest Word on THE FILM

During the week of November 22nd, Chuck Olin and Judy Hoffman will be returning to Alert Bay to complete additional shooting for the film. Chuck spent a week with us in August, talking to various people and meeting with a group of members, to get some idea of the direction we want the film to take.

While she's here, Judy will conduct another class in video recording techniques for interested members. She's a great teacher, so please let us know if you would like to join her class.

MEMBERSHIP

Our thanks to those who renewed their memberships -

Rita Alfred
Margaret Lalear
Peter Macnair
Bruce Alfred
Jay Kw. Gw. Powell
Ethel Scow
Elisabeth Weigold
Svea Svanvik
Clara Marie Tervo
Helen Willie
Denise Cranmer
Charlene Alfred

Christina Cook
Roy Cranmer
Janet Wasden
Peggy Svanvik
Phil Nuytten
Malia Southard
Patsy Wilson
Anna Hollbeck
George Rasmussen
Butch Leslie
Lily Alfred
Flora Cook

We also want to thank and to welcome our new members -

Yvonne Gesinghaus
Jim Borrowman
Bill McKay
Mabel Knox
Lilac Fehlauer
Emily Baker
Frederic Grunfeld
Yvonne Dunlop
Sharon Laughlin
Catherine McNeill
Emily Feffer
Chuck Olin

Bernice Wilson
Kay Bullock
Elizabeth A. Campbell
Pat and Sandy Slobodian
Betty M. Lindberg
Harold Alfred
Gloria Peters
Jamie Gunther
Caroline Wesley
Forbes Blyth
Ruth Cook
Verna Ambers

A special welcome to Caroline Wesley, who is now a member of the Skidegate Band, but is originally from Alert Bay. Her family (including other new members Kay Bullock and Catherine McNeill) is descended from Tłakwudłas (Joe Harris) a hereditary chief of the 'Namgis. The housefront design of the U'mista Cultural Centre is based on the original design of the traditional big house of Tłakwudłas.

Frederic Grunfeld, another new member, is a writer for CONNOISSEUR, a magazine published in New York. He visited the Centre in August and has written an article about us and the Kwakiutl Museum, which will appear in the January issue of the magazine. Mr. Grunfeld has the distinction of being the only member of the U'mista Cultural Society living in Spain.

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FUND-RAISING

Buntu's Bake Sale was held on July 31, and realized \$358.00. Our thanks to members who supplied the delicious goodies, which sold out very quickly.

On October 31st, we operated a Bingo and made \$455.26. Thank you, Patsy, Donna, Denise, Davina, Tony and Lorraine for your help.

Speaking of raffles, as we were on Page 3, we are now selling tickets at \$1.00 each, with the following prizes:

First: Blanket donated by Christine Nancarrow, valued at \$500.00.

2nd: Painted, round rattle by Fran Dick

3rd: Basket by Axu

The draw will be made on December 15th and tickets are available from T.D. Nelson, Patsy Wilson and Centre staff. Get your tickets soon - they're going fast!

While some bigger museums may look on our fund-raising efforts as small, mickey mouse activities, these are ways of involving our members and the fact is, we live in a small community, in which it is not possible to raise thousands of dollars at any one time. The smaller amounts we do manage to raise, begin to add up and help to pay for paper and postage, among other things.

OUR SECOND ANNIVERSARY

Our official opening was held on November 1, 1980 - a truly memorable day and a great beginning for us. Many of us still remember the joy, the sadness, but most of all, the tremendous feeling of pride we all felt that day.

During the past two years, we have accomplished many things we can be proud of, among them, the completion of our language book series, which stands as a model for other Indian groups across Canada, because no one had ever produced such material before. We will complete our second film soon, which will be as good, if not better than our first. Our yearly calendar is unique. The letters and articles which have been written about us demonstrate that visitors are very impressed with what we have to offer. Students, teachers, artists use our archives, library and collections for study, in increasing numbers.

So, how can we become even better in the future? Perhaps members should be reminded of the objects of the Society, as stated in our constitution:

- a) to collect, preserve and display Native artifacts of cultural, artistic and historical value to the Kwagu'i people,
- b) to promote and foster carving, dancing, ceremonials and other cultural and artistic activities engaged in by the Kwagu'i people,
- c) to collect, record and make available information and records relating to the language and history of the Kwagu'i people for the use of the Kwagu'i people,

'Walas Tatailita

(CHARLIE GEORGE, JR.)

December 10, 1910 - October 27, 1982.

We are saddened by the recent death of Charlie George, Jr., hereditary chief of the 'Nakwaxda'xw, whose original home was in Blunden Harbour. In his prime, he was one of the finest carvers and dancers in our area. Among his major contributions to the cultural life of the Kwakwaka'wakw was his work on the Big House, erected in Alert Bay in 1965. Without his direction and that of the late Chief Henry Speck, the impressive posts and beams of the building would not have been possible.

Many examples of his work can be found in the collections of major museums and in the possession of members of his family, for whom he carved masks, rattles and other objects for use in potlatches. As the result of a stroke in 1970, he became seriously handicapped, but continued to take his rightful place at many potlatches, and gave his last potlatch in Tsalgwadi in 1981, in memory of his late wife, Mary.

When 'Walas Tłatłilitła spoke at potlatches, he did so with the dignigty of a real chief. He will be sadly missed by all who loved and respected him.

THE COVER PHOTOGRAPH

As some of our members know, next year marks the 25th anniversary of June Sports in Alert Bay and the Cultural Centre hopes to exhibit a collection of soccer team photographs, beginning with the first teams during the early days of St. Michael's School to the present.

One of the photographs we have been able to borrow is that of the Hotel Nimpkish team, from about 1955, as far as we can estimate. From left to right, the players are:

Back row: Robert Mountain, Billy MacDougall, Ernie Mountain, Sam Hunt, Harry

Mountain, Jr., Billy Cook, Pip Alfred

Fr. row: George Cook, Johnny Smith, Jake Smith, Joe Peters (goalie), David Hunt, Sandy Jacobson.

So that we can begin working on the exhibit, we are asking members to loan us any soccer team photographs they may have, which can be copied and returned to them.