

U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



MUNGO MARTIN 1884-1962

NOVEMBER 1984

U'Mista Cultural Centre

Staff

Gloria Cranmer Webster - Curator
Jay Lowe - Administrative Assistant
Davina Hunt - Secretary/Receptionist

Winter Hours

Monday - Friday 10am to 5pm

Admission

Adults - 2.00

Seniors - 1.00

Children (under 12) .50

Kisdla halakida bakwam

Membership

Individual 10.00

Family 20.00

Sustaining 100.00

Life 1000.00

Board of Directors

Bill Cranmer	Chairman
Stanley Hunt Sr	Vice Chairman
Donna Cranmer	Secretary Treasurer
Eva Cook	
Elizabeth Nelson	
Frank Nelson	
George Hunt Jr	
Peter Smith	
Harry Walkus	
Willie Walkus	

Phone 974-5403

Address Box 253, Alert Bay B C VON 1A0

CURATOR'S REPORT

1. COVER PHOTOGRAPH: Many of our members will remember Mungo Martin, who was one of our previous generation of carvers. For some time, we have been thinking of an exhibit to recognize Mungo's valuable contribution to the survival of many aspects of our heritage. In the new year, we will begin conducting the necessary research to plan a travelling exhibit of Mungo's work, with some help from the National Museums Assistance Program. If any members know of carvings produced by Mungo Martin which were purchased by museums, please let us know. Such information will be very helpful in our planning.
2. BOX OF TREASURES: Our film continues to be well-received. It was shown at the Northwest Film and Video Festival in Portland Oregon earlier in November and was part of the film series offered by the Museum of the American Indian in New York, in conjunction with the exhibit "Out of the Mists".
3. DEVELOPING CULTURAL CENTRES: This was the title of a seminar offered by the British Columbia Museums Association, held recently in Vancouver. We were invited to make a presentation on the development of our centre to representatives of various bands throughout the province, who had registered for the seminar.
4. SPECIFIC CLAIMS: As some of our members know, Bill Cranmer, Chairman of our Board of Directors, myself, Bob Joseph and Bill Assu (Kwakiutl Museum) travelled to New York and Toronto to begin negotiating the return of the balance of the Potlatch Collection held by the Museum of the American Indian and the Royal Ontario Museum. Our reception by the Museum of the American Indian director was not very encouraging, neither was the discussion held with one of the trustees of the Board. Their position was that the MAI had legally acquired the objects from William Halliday in 1922 and that they could not consider returning the objects to us, without receiving artifacts of equal value. It was not a very productive visit, but, at least we know where we stand and can plan our next move. The discussions with the director and staff of ROM were much more positive, with a clear admission on their part that they are obligated to return the objects to us in a manner agreeable to all parties concerned, i.e., Royal Ontario Museum, Kwakiutl Museum and the U'mista Cultural Centre. An inter-board Committee has been set up to deal with the Specific Claim. From the Nuyambalees Society Board, representatives are Bill Assu and Bob Joseph. Our Committee members are Bill Cranmer and Stanley Hunt.
5. 4th ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND GENERAL MEETING: November 3rd was a very busy day for U'mista, with a Board meeting in the afternoon, followed by a dinner to celebrate the fourth anniversary of our official opening. The food, as usual, was delicious, thanks to our members. A special presentation was made to the family of the late Sam Scow, acknowledging his help to the U'mista Cultural Society in our early days. After the dinner, a general meeting was held, primarily to inform members of recent developments at the Centre. A motion was passed by the

membership urging me to accept a nomination for the position of President of the National Committee for Cultural Education Centres. I am grateful to the membership for its vote of confidence.

- 6. NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CULTURAL EDUCATION CENTRES DIRECTORS:
This year's conference was held in Sydney, Nova Scotia and was hosted by the Miacmac Association for Cultural Studies. Barbara Cranmer was the delegate for our Centre. It was an interesting experience for Barbara and I to visit the east coast - there are many differences between life in Alert Bay and life on the Membertou Reserve, where the banquet was held. I am sure that my election as president of the National Committee by acclamation was due to the good feelings I carried from the U'mista General meeting right across the country. This coming year will be a busy time for the National Committee, as we are undertaking a joint Needs Assessment/Evaluation study with the Evaluation Branch of Indian Affairs.
- 7. TOTEM POLES: The Vancouver Parks Board has announced that it is unable to finance the restoration of the totem poles in Stanley Park, one of which belonged to Chief Wakas of the 'Namgis. We have established contact with Parks Board representatives with the idea of having the four poles returned to Alert Bay for conservation treatment. This move would involved building a proper facility in which to carry out the needed treatment, not only of the Stanley Park poles, but also of poles in the immediate area. By providing training to some of our own people in conservation techniques, the U'mista Cultural Centre could then offer its services to other villages with poles in need of restoration. Jay Lowe, our capable administrative assistant, will be working the Finance and Fund-raising Committee on this project.

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KWAKWALA TEACHER TRAINING PROJECT

The Kwakwala Teacher Training Project has successfully completed its first year of courses. Participants have included the Kwakwala teachers from schools in Alert Bay, Fort Rupert and Tsulquate and sometimes, Rivers Inlet, Gilford and Kingcome. Other class members include dance and art teachers, teacher aides, substitute teachers and interested parents.

Spring and fall classes (taught by Joy Wild and Vickie Jensen) feature the development of teaching techniques and materials. The intensive summer sesseion, taught by Jay Powell, focuses on reading and writing Kwakwala. Courses may be taken for college credit.

The Kwakwala Teacher Training Program has had very positive feedback and excellent support from School District 85 and North Island College. Despite the current funding crunch, both students and teachers continue to be enthusiastic.

The next course begins in February 1985 at the Centre. You don't have to speak Kwakwala to join the classes and newcomers are welcome. For more information, contact the Centre - 974-5403.

Membership

To be a healthy cultural centre we need to focus on two areas; increase public access and interest and increase community involvement. In this issue we will discuss the second goal.

Under our bylaws we have voting members, those who can trace ancestry to a member of the Kwakwaka'wakw nation, and non-voting associate members. All persons eligible to become voting members become honorary life members at age 65. The Board of Directors consisting of 10 persons including a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer, are selected from the ranks of the voting members and are authorized to make all decisions as outlined in our constitution and bylaws. Although the Board makes final decisions, they rely to a great extent on the input from the various committees. It is the committees made up of associate and voting members as well as invited volunteers from the community that give the Centre its direct public participation in the operations. The committees appointed by the board this year are:-

Joint committee with Kwakiutl Museum for Specific Claims

Bill Cranmer
Gloria Webster
Tidi Nelson

Art Policy & Gift Shop

Frank Nelson
Davina Hunt
Dicky Sumner
Meryn Rosback
Chris Nancarrow
Harold Alfred

Personnel

George Hunt Jr
Jay Lowe

Membership & Tourism

Tidi Nelson
Eva Cook
Andrea Alfred

Finance and Fundraising

Stan Hunt Sr
Jay Lowe
Verna Ambers
Billy Wasden

Education & Cultural Programmes

Vera Cranmer
Gloria Webster
Tidi Nelson
Elaine Bruce
Christine Mack
Gerry Ambers
Harold Alfred
Donna Smith

Building & Grounds

Bill Cranmer
Jay Lowe
Doug Cranmer
Wayne Cook

There is pressing business to be attended to in all of these committees. If you find any of the above Fields to be of particular interest and you are willing to meet at least monthly, please call a member of the relevant committee to discuss. If you know of anyone in the community who may be approached to serve on a committee or if you feel there are concerns or ideas that need addressing please call any of the people listed above to bring them forward at the next meeting.

EDUCATION

The lecture " History of Commercial Fishing " by Duncan Stacy was attended by 34 people on Sept 19th. We wish to thank Duncan and the B C Provincial Museum for offering this lecture and we hope the Speakers' Tour program continues to offer a high calibre lecture series in the future. If anyone has ideas on lectures we can be offering related to native culture, especially by local people, please call or write the Programs Committee.

Video Workshop with Judy Hoffman will be starting in mid January. The purpose of the workshop is to have more people in the community familiar with our video equipment. We have an obligation to record cultural events such as Potlatches for our archives. We will be better able to fulfill this function with more video operators in Alert Bay, Fort Rupert, and other villages in the area. Those interested in attending the workshop should contact the Centre as soon as possible to make arrangements. We urge each band to consider sending a local representative.

Finance Report

At the moment the Centre is very sound financially with our operating and cultural education costs covered for this fiscal year. We have applications in the works for funding to help with the following:-

- a) Kwakwaka Teacher Training Project
- b) Big House Renovation
- c) Carvers' Workshop & Totem Pole Restoration

The carvers' workshop which has been planned for over four years,

Finance Report cont...

should be started within the next few months. This building will serve several purposes which are urgently needed in our community.

(1) A central location where carvers can work together and improve their trade under the leadership of senior artists.

(2) A school for new carvers.

(3) A tourist attraction where we can show the world the exacting and colourful world of native sculpture, bent box making, designing, and jewellery production.

(4) A space for the much-needed restoration of many of our old totem poles.

(5) A more efficient gift shop with marketing potential to increase trade for the artists.

To this end we are applying for Federal, Provincial, and private funding. Most of the support for a project of this size will have to come from outside the community, but local backing is necessary to indicate our determination in having these facilities. This is your opportunity to make a **tax deductible donation** to the Centre. Make your cheques payable to the Totem Pole Restoration Capital Fund. Cheques mailed before Dec 31st 1984, will be receipted for 1984 tax relief.

Photograph Contest

For our brochure - required - five photos in colour depicting culture in our area. Examples could be totems, carvers at work, displays of art, dance, salmon preparation, and local scenes. Submit a colour negative with a 5x7 print to the centre. Winners judged by our Art Policy Committee will be announced in the next issue of this newsletter. Prizes will be \$50.00 each and all photos submitted become property of the Centre.

Gift Shop

First of all I would like to thank all our members for their support of the gift shop. As you all know, we encourage all visitors to become members, after which they will receive a 10% discount on all purchases in the shop and free admission to the Centre for one year. You might consider a Christmas gift of a membership in the Society for a friend.

Our annual Christmas sale will be held on Saturday Dec 1st 1984 and on Saturday Dec 8th 1984, from 9am to 5pm. Sale items are discounted as follows including your membership discount:-

Research Books & Carvings	20%
Language Books, Prints, Jewellery	15%
T-Shirts, Cards, Stickers	15%

We will see you there and if not, why not order by mail?