

U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



FRANZ BOAS AND THE GEORGE HUNT FAMILY AT FORT RUPERT

APRIL 1987

HUNT -BOAS REUNION



Franziska, Franz Boas' daughter who visited

The weekend of September 19th marked the occasion of the 100th anniversary reunion of the Hunt and Boas families, which was attended by 34 members of the Boas families and countless Hunt descendants. The Alert Bay branch of the Hunt hosted the Boas from Friday, the 19th until noon, Sunday, the 21st. Most of the visitors were billeted, with 12 members staying at the Orca Inn. On the Saturday morning, the Boas visited the Cultural Centre, watched both films, were served lunch and then taken out on the "Kitgora", Laurel Point" and "W. No. 11" for a trip to Village Island. The three boats were skippered by Roy Cranmer, Stanley Hunt and Ernie Alfred. On our return to Alert Bay everyone gathered in the Big House for a dinner, which was followed by dancing. Special gifts were given to Franziska, the only surviving daughter of Franz Boas (A silver bracelet) and a carved figure to Norman Boas who first made contact with us last year. Our gifts to other members of the Boas family were "Spirit Lodge" posters and books. From the Boas family, the U'mista Cultural Centre received copies of the first 100 pieces of correspondence between George Hunt and Franz Boas, as well as framed and unframed photographs.

On Sunday morning, the Boas' returned to the Centre for a second look and to make last minute purchases at the Gift Shop. Everyone then left on the noon ferry and travelled to Fort Rupert, where lunch was served, a film shown and introductions made. Following a short break, everyone returned to the Lions Hall for a dinner, followed by dancing and presentations of gifts to the Boas family. Everyone was billeted and on Monday morning, our visitors left for Vancouver.

To add to the excitement of the weekend, a film crew from Chicago, working with our Salmonista group, filmed the reunion. Also, Brian Shein and Kirk Tougas, who worked on a first film were present. All in all, it was a very good celebration and the feeling on both sides seemed to be that it was also the renewal of a long-standing relationship of the two families.

Gloria is attempting to find funding to turn the footage filmed of the reunion into a finished production.

In addition, through Boas contacts', the Centre was able to track down early recordings of our songs from the Provincial Archives of British Columbia, the Archives of Traditional Music at Indiana University, and the Federal Cylinder Project at the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

EVEN. JAY AT THE CENTRE

Regular activities continue at the Centre. Three days a week T'lisalagi'lakw School uses the Centre for dance, singing and language lessons taught by Agnes Cranmer, Ethel Alfred Andrea Cranmer and Pauline Alfred.

On Tuesday evening button blanket making has started again and the singing group continues on Thursday night.

SCHOOL TOURS

We have also been receiving school groups from the district. A group of students from A.J. Elliott school at Sointula visited in mid-March. The students had the opportunity to try carving, dancing, art forms, petroglyph rubbings and doll-making as well as getting their first taste of Indian ice cream which is made from soapberries. The activities were demonstrated by an enthusiastic group of volunteers, organized by Tidi Nelson, as part of her practicum with the Simon Fraser University Teacher Training Course. Resource people included William Wasden, Gerry Ambers, Diane Bell, and Libby Wattinger, as well as U'mista staff. Many of the students had never been to Alert Bay or U'mista prior to the field trip and one student wrote to us: "I think that day was the best of my life".

Other student teachers from the SFU course are now planning to bring groups from the school for similar activity programs.

GIFT SHOP

The Gift Shop had a successful Christmas raffle, and we are now planning another one in the near future. We have new stock in jewellery, so you are welcome to come take a look. Also, there are some new buttons in for all you button blanket makers, particularly since classes in blanket making have started again at the Centre.

TOURISM

To better promote the Museum and increase its revenues the Centre is becoming actively involved in the tourist industry in a cooperative effort with other North Island tourism-related groups.

To assist in better organizing and coordinating its activities the Centre is hiring a Tourism Coordinator who will organize good programs at the Centre and assist in promoting the Centre through other groups.

EVENTS

TOTEM POLE CONSERVATION

In late September, Gloria attended the Canadian Conservation Institute Symposium where she was able to contact conservation experts who will be helpful in plans to preserve totem poles and implement training in conservation for young persons in this area.

Care for abandoned poles in Campbell River and Vancouver is being looked into.

SPIRIT LODGE FOLLOW-UP

Lon Keithly of General Motors, senior manager who strongly supported Spirit Lodge and ensured that U'mista received a \$20,000 bonus came to visit the Centre, Saturday, October 11 accompanied by his wife, Jackie, Roger and Ann Crispell and Bob Rogers.

On behalf of the Centre, the Board presented Mr. Keithly with a model canoe, paddle and a print in appreciation of his generosity to our Centre. Mr. Keithly was so impressed with our Centre and his reception here that he decided that General Motors would pay for the cost of transporting the Spirit Lodge set to Alert Bay. U'mista also received a microwave oven, coffee-maker and heating pad.

The Spirit Lodge set is being stored in the Parish Hall in Alert Bay and the architecture of a building to house the set and an activity centre, are being designed by Harry Hawthorne for consideration. The Centre is also looking into funding sources so that when decisions are made we can begin fund-raising.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION WORKSHOP

The Centre hosted a seminar sponsored by the British Columbia Museums Association (BCMA) "Developing Cultural Centres" attended by 13 participants and catered by the Salmonista Video Crew. One of the highlights was a presentation by Greig Arnold, director of the Makah Cultural and Research Centre at Neah Bay, which opened in 1978 at a cost of 1.5 million dollars. Greig Arnold complimented our Centre saying we were about three years ahead of his Centre in terms of programs and activities and he looks to us for guidance.

SPECIFIC CLAIMS

The Royal Ontario Museum continue to stall the shipment of their part of the Potlatch Collection. National Museums Canada is assisting us in pressuring ROM and hopefully the Collection will soon be returned.

To accelerate all aspects of Specific Claims, including pursuing ROM and the Museum of the American Indian and financial compensation for damages caused by the Potlatch ban, the U'mista Board has decided to hire a consultant to work over a total 15 day time period. The consultant, Debra Hanuse, expects to have a report to Office of Native Claims plus a proposal for further funding to continue pursuing Specific Claims plus a planning session with the U'mista and Nuyambalees Boards to elaborate plans and projected five year budgets as part of the specific Claims package.

STAFF

Gloria is now officially on leave of absence (although still busy writing papers and presentations for conferences) and seeking funding for the Hunt Boas film and conservation projects - some rest!

Sandra Cowan is filling in as Administrator for six months and has worked with National Museums Canada Museumobile, Victoria' Inter-Cultural Association, the Goldstream Museum and other organizations both as paid staff and as a volunteer.

She is working on grant submissions, correspondence, program planning policy research and other matters as directed by the Board.

Davina Hunt continues to devote long hours and hard work not only directly to the Centre, the Gift Store and Salmonista but in organizing other activities as well. Gerry Ambers has finished the Grade Four Units of the KDC Social Studies Program and is continuing along with Barb Cranmer to develop the Program through video-tapes on three Kwakiutl villages. Both are helping with the Art Show and fund-raising for the Salmonista trip to Chicago.

Linda Wilson of Alert Bay is janitor for the Centre - things never looked so clean as they do now!

Eva Cook will officially start in May as our Tour Coordinator. She is undertaking some orientation now, having completed a B.C. Museum's Association management seminar.

She has served on the U'mista Board and is currently on the executive of the Native Brotherhood of B.C.

Debra Hanuse has been working with the Nimpkish Band on Land Claims and plans to attend law school in the fall. She is employed by U'mista on contract to complete Specific Claims and organize a planning session.

We would like to thank the following people who have renewed their membership:

Jenifer Butterfield

Vera Newman

Donald Dodman

Angela Gedye

Judy Hoffman

Margaret Lalear

Brian Moloney

Gloria Snively

Malia Southard

Olga Tuttle

Charline Alfred

Yvonne Gesinghaus

Alice Scow

Margaret Taylor

Kay Bullock

Debbie Hanuse

Stanley Hunt

Barb Hunt

Arthur Jackson

Nola Johnston

Betty M. Lindberg

Jenny Thurber

Helen Willie

Maureen Wright

Gerry Ambers

Eva Cook

Fran Dick

Geri Dick

Howard Follington

Charles Macaulay

Shirley Mazerolle

Betty Prangnell

Meryn Rosback

Stephen Ruttan

Clare Trevo

Lynee Wiltse

Andrew Alfred

Pauline Alfred

John Anderson

Emily Feffer

Laurie Campbell

Russell Dick

Davina Hunt

Peggy Martin

Phil Nuytten

Anne Pat Orcas

Pat Simpson

Rod Thurber

Elizabeth Weigold

Deedee Alfred

Stella Beans

Chris Cook Jr.

Barb Cranmer

Donna Cranmer

Flora Dawson

Edwin Newman

John Proctor

Laura Recalma

Bob Rogers

Andrea Sanborn

Alfred J. Speck

Lawrence Ambers

Maureen Cook

Patsy Cook

Richard George

James (Butch) Leslie

Deanne Wadhams

STAFF REPORT

November 1, 1986 - February 28, 1987

To mark the 6th anniversary of the opening of the U'mista Cultural Centre, we held an Open House, showing films and videos and providing refreshments for about 50 members who attended. For the Native Brotherhood Convention, we prepared a folder with a message of welcome for the delegates and a Kwakwaka'waka version of "Onward Christian Soldiers". As well, we opened the Centre on the Sunday afternoon before the Convention started, at the request of the Brotherhood Board. Also in November, I attended a meeting of the Review Committee on the Handbook for Development of Native Language Programs, sponsored by the Secretary of State office in Vancouver. During the trip, I also met with Michael Jackson regarding the Specific Claim Report and with Ann Krahn, to discuss conservation needs for our Centre.

In December, through contacts initiated by Philip Yampolsky, one of the Boas grandsons who visited us in September, we were able to track down early recordings of our songs from the Provincial Archives of British Columbia, the Archives of Traditional Music at Indiana University, the Federal Cylinder Project at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. We received the second batch of Boas/Hunt correspondence from Norman Boas. The Centre hosted a visit of 32 teachers from North Island Secondary School, at which time we gave a tour and showed Box of Treasures. The visit was followed by a community dinner, attended by the teachers, parents and students. Barbara Cranmer and Gerry Ambers began working on the first phase of the Curriculum Development Project, funded by the Kwagu'at District Council. This phase was a review of the material held by the Centre and the KDC plans to publish the resulting bibliography for distribution among its member bands. The Gift Shop held its annual pre-Christmas sale, which produced enough sales to make Davina very happy.

A meeting with KDC staff early in January resulted in the decision to have Gerry Ambers continue with the next phase of the Curriculum Development Project, i.e., to begin planning specific Social Studies units for Grade 4. The "Spirit Lodge" set was transferred to the Parish Hall for storage, through an arrangement made by our chairman and the rector of Christ Church. On January 26th, two students from North Island Secondary School began a work experience program in the Centre, which helped considerably, as 17 crates of the "Wild Harvest" travelling exhibit arrived from the B.C. Provincial Museum at this time. The work experience program lasted for two weeks and involved three students.