

U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



The Salmonista Video Crew
at the entrance of the
Field Museum of Natural
History, Chicago

The Salmonista Video Crew
relaxing at the Fiesta Del
Sol, Pilsen neighbourhood,
Chicago



Photographs: Donna Cranmer

SEPTEMBER 1987

GLORIA WEBSTER
BOX
ALERT BAY, B.C.
V0N 1A0



Since the last U'mista Cultural Centre Newsletter in April, the scene at the Centre has changed a little. Sandra Cowan's six-month contract ended on August 31st and I returned on September 1st, from my leave of absence. Davina Hunt continues as Registrar/Gift Shop Manager, while also taking care of organizing lunches, dinners and trips for us. Our Tourism Coordinator, Eva Cook, has had a busy summer with tour groups, etc. and, judging from comments and letters from visitors, has done an exceptional job. Ruth Alfred left the Centre in August and has been replaced by Sharon Mountain as Secretary. We welcome Sharon to our staff and she has already demonstrated that she is a hard-working addition to our operation. Gerry Ambers and Barbara Cranmer are continuing with the completion of video projects.

The good news from the Job Development Branch(CEIC) recently is that funding for Eva Cook and Sharon Mountain has been extended. During the next few months, Eva will be working on long-term planning for expanded tourism activities in the coming year, as well as continuing to up-grade her training. Sharon is taking additional course at North Island College, including a compute program.

With the beginning of school, Agnes Cranmer and Ethel Alfred are back, teaching in the dance program of T̄isalagi'lakw School, with Andrea Cranmer as coordinator. The increased enrollment at the school means a busier time for the dance staff.

Congratulations to Barbara Cranmer, who has been accepted for a 10-month video training course sponsored by the Chief Dan George Memorial Foundation. We wish her luck and look forward to her return, so that she can share her experience with the rest of the Salmonistas. Gerry Ambers will hold the video fort in Barbara's absence, with the volunteer help of the rest of the crew.

Meanwhile, at the Gift Shop, Davina Hunt happily reports a profitable summer. She is preparing for the annual pre-Christmas sale and planning a raffle to raise money for a visit to the Makah Cultural Centre at Neah Bay. She promises terrific prizes - watch for it!

As for myself, after I find my way around my office again, I plan to work on the Boas/Hunt film project, with the added possibility of publishing the Boas/Hunt letters, in collaboration with the Boas family. My leave of absence was, in some ways, to short - I didn't accomplish as much as I had hoped, but I am happy to be back. We have a very good staff, who are committed, hard-working, enthusiastic and easy to work with, so I am looking forward to a productive future for us.

Gloria Cranmer Webster.

SALMONISTA VIDEO CREW

In 1982, the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago opened a major exhibit called "Maritime Peoples of the Northwest Coast" For this exhibit, Chuck Olin was commissioned to produce a 10-minute introductory film in 1980 and so, our own film, Box of Treasures, began. The importance of the exhibit for us relates to the artifacts which were acquired by the Field Museum, following the Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. At that time, a group of our people, led by George Hunt, travelled to Chicago to participate in the exposition. Among the members of the group was Xa'niyus (Bob Harris), a Da'naxda'xw carver, who created a number of the objects now in the Maritime Peoples exhibit.

It seemed obvious that very few of our people would ever be able to travel to Chicago to see this important exhibit, and it was decided to bring the exhibit home on video tape.

The Salmonista Video Crew raised funds for 18 months, through bingos, raffles and catered luncheons, to finance the trip to Chicago to video tape the artifacts from our area at the Field Museum. Our goal was to video tape the entire collection on display and in storage. But, because the Museum only allowed us one week for taping, we were able to tape only half of the collection. Our priorities were the unusual pieces and the various intricate cedar bark weavings that we no longer see in our area.

The video tapes, we hope, will be useful for artists, weavers, teachers and our old people, not to mention the people in our communities. Our first screening of the tapes will be announced soon.

We would like to thank the people who supported our fund-raising events.

THE SALMONISTA VIDEO CREW: Andrew Alfred Denise Cranmer
 Gerry Ambers Donna Cranmer
 Barbara Cranmer Davina Hunt

Note: The Salmonista Video Crew is to be congratulated for accomplishing as much as it did, given the conditions imposed by the Field Museum. Without the help of our friends who are professional filmmakers in Chicago, the job of our crew would have been almost impossible. Among those who worked with Salmonista were: Dick Nykiel, David Obermayer, Gordon Quinn, Jim Sterne, Jerry Blumenthal, Jim Morrisette, Peter Kuttner and, of course, Judy Hoffman. We are also very grateful to Will Washington, Coordinator of Visitor Services at the Field. Will and his staff gave generously of their time and tried in every way to make things easier for us in a difficult situation. Thanks also to Janet Miller, Christine Gross and Nina Cummings of the Field Museum staff for their help.

Gloria Cranmer Webster.



Barbara Cranmer on camera in Hall 10.

THE SALMONISTA VIDEO CREW HARD AT WORK IN CHICAGO Photographs by Donna Cranmer



During a break from logging for Davina Hunt and recording sound for Denise Cranmer. They may be waiting for lights and camera to be set, or wondering, "When do we eat?"



Drew Alfred taking his turn at trying to figure out the very confusing and complicated labelling in the cases in Hall 10.



Musée canadien des civilisations

Canadian Museum of Civilization

C O M M U N I Q U E

12 May 1987

NEW WAKAS POLE TO BE UNVEILED

The Canadian Museum of Civilization is pleased to announce that on 31 May 1987 at 2:30 p.m. the new Wakas totem pole will be unveiled during a public ceremony at Brockton Point in Stanley Park. The unveiling is presented in cooperation with the Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation and the Vancouver Museum.

The original Wakas pole was erected by Chief Wakas in Alert Bay in 1893. The pole, which has stood in Stanley Park, Vancouver, from 1928 to 1985 will be restored to its original condition by the Canadian Museum of Civilization. It will then be featured in the exhibition on native Indian cultures of the Pacific Coast in the Grand Hall of the new Canadian Museum of Civilization, which will open in Ottawa during July 1989. The present owner of the Wakas pole, the Vancouver Museum, has agreed to lend the pole to the Canadian Museum of Civilization for 30 years.

To fill the void left by the pole in Stanley Park, the Canadian Museum of Civilization commissioned Chief Wakas' great-nephew, Doug Cranmer, to carve a full-scale replica of the pole. The assistance of MacMillan-Bloedel and the Bank of British Columbia in completing this project is gratefully acknowledged.

-30-

30 members of the U'mista Cultural Society travelled to Vancouver to celebrate the occasion announced above. The group was joined by some of our people who live in Vancouver. Others who attended were members of the Walkus family from Rivers Inlet. Thus, both sides of Chief Wakas' family were represented, 'Namqis and Awikinuxw.

Davina Hunt, as usual, did a great job of organizing the trip and making sure that our old people

were well looked after. In a meeting the night before the unveiling, they talked about Chief Wakas and the importance of remembering where the pole came from. Even though others now own the pole, Wakas' descendants continue to hold the right to it. All the old people enjoyed themselves and appreciated Davina's TLC.

AXU'S DINNER

The suggestion came from Davina that, once a year, the U'mista Cultural Society should honour one of our own people who has made a significant contribution to the cultural life of the Kwakwaka'wakw. There was unanimous agreement that the first one to be so honoured should be Axu (Agnes Alfred). At the age of 93, she is the oldest member of the 'Namgis and has actively supported the Centre, sharing her knowledge, offering advice and participating in all our activities. On July 18, 1987, a lunch was held at the Council Hall, attended by many local Society members, who paid tribute to Axu. A carved rattle by her grandson, Bruce, was presented to her in appreciation of her support. Also, someone had whispered in Davina's ear that Axu had always wanted one of Gordon Scow's carvings, so we gave her one of those.

Too often, we don't take the time to give proper recognition to people like Axu and, once again, we have to thank Davina for another of her good ideas. We certainly have a number of good candidates for future "Appreciation Dinners" and we will plan one for next year.

Gilakas'la, Axu, for everything you have given us.

GIFTS AND DONATIONS

Gilakas'la to the following people for their generous donations to the Society:

Kwiksutaineuk Band	\$200.00
Stubbs Island Tours	10.00
Jay Stewart	20.00
Sandra Cowen	450.00
Franziska Boas	300.00*
Nicholas and Eva Michelson	500.00*

Note: The donations marked with * are specifically for the Boas/Hunt film project.

From Jay Stewart, Director, Campbell River Museum, we received a Killerwhale print, by Doug Cranmer. Gilakas'la

Unfortunately, in this issue, we are not able to thank individually those who have renewed their membership or to welcome new members to the Society. We do appreciate your support. By the next newsletter, we hope to have our membership files in order, so we can thank everyone properly.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on June 14, 1987. An important agenda item was the election of Directors, to replace those whose terms had expired. The results were:

Re-elected: Bill Cranmer
 Elizabeth Nelson
 Peter Smith
 Harry Walkus
 Elected: Diane Bell
 Flora Dawson.

A motion was passed to change the membership guidelines of the Society, to allow for corporate membership of bands or other organizations. An application to amend the constitution to include this change will be forwarded to the Registrar of Societies.

Correction: At the meeting, it was reported that the total attendance for 1986 was 1,473. The correct total is 3,432. This figure does not include the weekly attendance of students from Tisalagi'lakw for dance classes during the school term.

THE AINU

On September 5th, we welcomed a group of Ainu people from Japan. These are the bakwam of that country and form a distinct cultural group. Shigeru Kayano and his interpreter, Masami Iwasaki had attended the same conference as our Centre's curator last year in Sweden.

There were 18 members in the group, who were billeted in the homes of local U'mista members. We welcomed our visitors in the Big House with a dinner, followed by dance performances. At the end of the evening, gifts were exchanged, with Mr. Kayano receiving a Gordon Scow carving and a set of language books for his museums. The rest of the group received posters. Mr. Kayano presented our Centre with a traditional Ainu robe woven of elm bark and trimmed with appliqued cotton, an appliqued headband, two books of photographs and copies of a book of legends.

On the 6th, our visitors toured the Centre, watched our films and after lunch, were taken out on the Kitgora and W. No. 11, for a trip down the straits. Our thanks to skippers Roy Cranmer and Ernie Alfred for making their boats available. On our return to the Bay, the Board of Directors hosted a dinner for the Ainu, followed by an informal gathering of hosts and visitors. The next day, the Ainu left to continue their trip to Victoria and Banff.

During the short time we had with our Ainu visitors, a relationship was established, which will continue. Our Centre

and the Ainu Museum in Nibutani have become sister institutions and we will exchange information and offer support to each other. In our different countries, we share similar problems and work toward the same goals, that of ensuring our cultures are not overwhelmed by the modern world that surrounds us. We hope that, in the not too distant future, members of the U'mista Cultural Society will be able to visit our Ainu friends in Hokkaido.

The success of the visit was due in large part to the enthusiastic participation of our members, who contributed food, offered accomodation and generally, gave a warm welcome to our visitors. To all of you who helped: Gilakas'la.



The above photograph is from a brochure brought by our visitors. It shows an Ainu museum and on the upper right, a head-dress and robe similar to the ones presented to our Centre.

TOURISM COORDINATOR

I've been busy this summer as tourism coordinator, I find my job both challenging and fulfilling. A job training component was added to my responsibilities to further develop my skills. My training includes courses at North Island College and at tourism workshops.

I started in May at Chilliwack with seminars on time management, long and short term goals, finances, marketing. Workshops included community development, media and native tourism, With our summer students we did photography, cedar bark stripping and museum operations.

We distributed our own pamphlet to tourists information booths along the Vancouver Island as well as the ferry "Queen of the North" to publicize our special tour package featuring regular performances of two 'NAMGIS legends.

After researching different legends, we chose the two most suitable to perform as plays. We enjoyed making props, orgnaizing actors and putting together the script and costumes.

The summer students had just completed a drama course at Simon Fraser Univerity so they were anxious to get started, We chose the 'NAMGIS legends of the origin myths of the HAMATSA and MADAM.

Jamie as Baxbakwalanuksiwe' was exceptional. Donna and Andrea were wonderful as K'umalagalis, great singing! Lorraine became supper confident as our storyteller and Agnes, with her singing, made our performances special. Norine with special effects, lighting and props, made it real. Our children were fantastic actors and dancers and Ruth is to be commended for her creative arrangement of foods, offered to tourists.

LEGENDS PERFORMERS

PERFORMERS

JAMIE SHAUGHNESSY
DONNA CRANMER
ANDREA CRANMER
TINA DICK
JOY DICK
KATE DICK
TYLER CRANMER
MAY SHAUGHNESSY
MAGGIE McDOUGALL
AGNES CRANMER
LORRAINE HUNT
EVA COOK
NORINE CRANMER

HAMATSA

BAXWBAKWALANUKSIWE'
BROTHER
BROTHER
BROTHER
BROTHER
BROTHER
BROTHER
SINGER
STORYTELLER
WIFE
BEHIND THE SCENES-LIGHTING AND

MADAM

YOUNG BOY
K'UMALAGALIS
K'UMALAGALIS
DANCER-MADAM
DANCER-MADAM
DANCER-MADAM
HAMATSA DANCER
DANCER-MADAM
DANCER-MADAM
SINGER
STORYTELLER
FATHER
TECHNICAL

ONE TIME PERFORMERS

VERA NEWMAN
 SHARON WHONNOCK
 MAYANNA AMBERS
 JOANNA RECALMA

Tourists came from all over the world to visit us, to see us dance, taste our delicious barbecued salmon and see our award winning film "Box of Treasures".

We asked visitors to complete a Quistionnaire during the summer to help evaluate tourism and assist mount Waddinton Regional District plan strategies for attracting more tourist in our areas. I attend monthly meetings to represent U'mista Cultural Centre.

Five native youths from the B.C. Museum of Anthropology came to our Centre for exchanges of ideas and work projects. These students are trained in basic museum work and public speaking, their presentation was on "Potlatch," and "Cedar Bark" accompanied by a slide presentation. This was thoroughly enjoyed by people who came to see them and the presentation.

The highlight of my work this summer has been to help co-ordinate the Haida canoe "Lootaas" Expedition, KWAGU'±, Youth Conference, and a visit by Ainu people from Japan.

There were many people who became involved with the tourism program and without their help and support it would not have been a great success.

GILAKASLA!

EVA COOK

NOTICE

Please check the expiry date on your membership card. Otherwise, this may be your last newsletter!

SWEATSHIRT DESIGN CONTEST! For all the local artists of the Kwakwaka'wakw, there is an extension for a submission of your design, you have till October 7th. Remember to hand in your design to Davina Hunt, so that it could be properly stored until the deadline. After, which three judges will chose the winning design, and we will contact all the artists with the results.

Keep in touch with the Centre, we will be starting button blanket making and singing classes soon. We are hoping there will be alot of new faces for these nights.

HAIDA CANOE EXPEDITION
"LOOTAAS"

The Haida asked permission to cross our territorial waters on its journey home to Haida Gwaii. The "Lootaas" landed on the beach in front of our U'mista Cultural Centre.

Our people were here in full regalia with dances, songs, and speeches to welcome them. Led by Master Carver Bill Reid, Miles Richardson, Gary Edenshaw, Diane Brown, we invited them ashore into our Centre.

A Community dinner was held at our Big House followed by Dance Performances by our children. The U'mista Cultural Society presented them with a gift of a paddle carved by George Hunt Jr. The Haida paddlers performed a dance for us also. All of the paddlers were billeted out to homes throughout the community. We were given an opportunity to paddle and ride the canoe before they left the following morning. Meeting the Haida people with their strength and great spirit left us all with a deep sense of pride.

Their visit to Alert Bay was video taped by our own Salmonista Video Crew. The tape is available for viewing at the Centre anytime upon request.

GILAKAS'LA FOR YOUR SUPPORT

SUMMER YOUTH CONFERENCE

The U'mista Cultural Centre helped co-ordinate a Play Potlatch for the Summer Youth Conference sponsored by the Kwa gwí District council. The 45 Youths were from the different Villages among the KWAKWAKA'WAKW.

The Youth were met the 'Namgis Welcome Dance when they embarked off the ferry. They camped at the council Hall for the night. The following morning they were shown the film "Box Of Treasures" and a guided tour of the Centre by Norine Cramner. We also performed the two legends of Madam and Hamat'sa.

The Community supported the Youths with a potluck dinner before starting the Play Potlatch. Everyone participated by singing and dancing. T-Shirts were given to the Youths as a memento of their week at the conference. George Speck gave them all a dollar coin for them to all remember what they had learned. We were proud to be a part of the Youth Conference because our U'mista Centre is here for all of us to use for Cultural Education.

We would like to thank our community for generous donations and support in helping by making this special event successful.

GILAKAS'LA

ART SHOW

The U'mista proudly presented for the first time ever, an Art Show of our local artists. More than thirty local artists responded to the idea of featuring their work locally. For many who have participated in previous shows and exhibitions in larger cities there seemed to be a real excitement in being reognized locally.

The show was co-ordinated by Tidi Nelson, Meryn Rosback, Elizabeth Weigold, Gerri Ambers, Sandra Cowen and Davina Hunt. The original plan was have the show run for a month of May. However, the show actually ran until June Sports weekend in response to the popular demand.

Exhibited were carved pieces in gold and silver jewellery, bentwood boxes, masks, rattles, whistles, poles. Other Art Medium shared were basketry, pottery, button blanket, dollies, prints, and leather.

The opening of the Art exhibit was held on May 15 with 75 people in attendance. Proving to be the most successful exhibit since the Centre was officially opened in 1980. Young and old enjoyed the Art Display with enthusiasm. Plans for the future are, that there be an Annual Show with a different tribe represented yearly.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

"Great to see everyone's work. Such a variety!"

"I'm speechless, I'm super excited"

"A beautiful presentation"

"Good things are happening at the U'mista"

"Good showing of our artists"

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!