



Grant Project Nearly Complete!

NOVEMBER 2002

Update on Gá saá an Xaadas Guusuu

(Funded in part by a grant from Alaska Humanities Forum)

Háwaa Kasaan Haida elders and all who contributed to the elders interview project. Fred Olsen Jr., the project's media specialist, is now putting the final touches on the edited group video to be shown after the upcoming Kavalco Annual dinner. At this time, elders who have participated in the interviews will be presented with complimentary copies of the video. There will also be an opportunity for interested Kasaan people to purchase copies of the video at a substantial discount. With Christmas just around the corner, this could potentially make a nice gift. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to purchase a copy, please contact Jeane Breinig at 907-561-8891, or email her at jeane@gci.net.

The original copies of the individual audio tapes and accompanying transcripts will be stored at the Rasmuson Oral History Depository at University of Alaska Fairbanks. The edited group video will eventually be available in Alaskan libraries. A big thank you to all you contributed their time, energy, and money to this project. A special thank you to the Alaskan Humanities Forum for partially funding the project, and to Charisse Dwyer, Kavalco's administrative assistant for helping maintain project records.

As the grant funded portion of the Elder's Interview Project nears completion, KHHF solicits YOUR ideas and input about further Kasaan Haida historical or cultural heritage projects. If you have a great project idea you'd like to work on, or can help us identify potential finding sources for your idea, please send us a brief letter or e-mail Laird Jones at jnujones@ptialaska.net describing the project, how you could help with the project, and how funding for the project might be secured. We look forward to hearing from many of you!



Newsletter

Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation



Donors

(In the order they were received within each category)

K'áang

Hemlock (Up to \$100)

Erma Lawrence in honor/memory of Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Baronovich

Catherine Kerstetter in honor/memory of Anna & Louis Jones

Melinda White in honor/memory of Louise & Melinda Jones

Alton McAllister IV in honor/memory of David & Annabelle Peele

Audrey Escoffon in honor/memory of Eliza Mary Young McAlpin

Henry M. Brouillette in honor/memory of Robert R. Young, Sr.

Minnie E. Stevens in honor/memory of all old timers, especially The Peeles

Ts'ahl

Pine (\$101 - \$499)

John Campbell

Shelly Smith in honor/memory of Dorothy Evener

Eleanor Hadden in honor/memory of Louis & Anna Jones, George Jones,

Henry Jones and Raymond Jones

Ts'úu

Red Cedar (\$500 - \$999)

Elaine M. Privett in honor/memory of Edward L. Young Sr.

Louis L. Jones, Sr. in honor/memory Raymond & Laura Jones

Sgahláang

Yellow Cedar (\$1,000 or more)

Della Coburn in honor/memory of Anna Frank Jones, *Taaslaanas Raven**

Chris & Jeane Breinig in honor/memory of Henry Jones, *Taaslaanas Raven*

Caroline Hendrixson in honor/memory of Robert Phillip Young

Organized Village of Kasaan

Julie R. Coburn in honor/memory of Christian L. Coburn, *Taaslaanas Raven*

Sealaska Heritage Foundation

Kenneth Gordon

**If you would like your clan name identified with your donation, please let us know.*

Through these generous donations we have
raised over \$10,600!

A huge "Háwaa" to all who have donated!



To Make Your Donation:

Make your check payable to:

Kasaan Haida
Heritage Foundation

and mail it to:

Kasaan Haida
Heritage Foundation
c/o Kavilco, Inc.
600 University St.,
Ste 3010
Seattle, WA 98101

IRS code 501(c)(3),
EIN 92-0169568



How the "Whale House" Got Its Name

The following story is excerpted from the application to the National Historic Register successfully submitted by Louis Thompson on behalf of Kavilco. It was included as supporting documentation as part of the complete package. The notes were handwritten on November 22, 1938 by Linn Forrest who spoke to James Peele, son of Chief Sonihat:

"Years ago there was an animal known as Wasco which lived both on the land and in the sea. Its abode was in a lake not far from the shore from where it often traveled down the outlet to the sea to catch whales. Belief was

that anyone who should kill this animal and wear its skin would have this power. One day a native youth named Coon-Ahts set a trap for the animal and after killing it put on the skin. Soon a feeling came over him to go to the sea and catch whales which he was able to do then and thereafter."

...[Linn comments that] "the building has always ... been known as the "Whale House. This is not to be mistaken for the killer whale."

The next step is application for Federal Appropriation funds to make the necessary repairs to the building and totems.

Milestones

Second Generation Shareholders

Justin Jones was promoted from Floyd Dryden Middle School to Juneau/Douglas High School June, 2002.

He was one of four students completing three years of middle school with straight A's (4.0gpa).

At the ceremony Justin and the other straight A students made a speech on behalf of the promoted Floyd Dryden students.

Grandparents Willard and Mary Jones and Francis Eddy also attended.

Anna Lathen Graduates

Anna Lathen, daughter of Della Coburn, graduated from the University of Washington on June 16, 2002 with a BA in Art. Following the graduation ceremony, her family held a celebration at Charles Breinig's home in Kirkland, Washington. About 30 guests attended the event, including her grandparents, Julie and Perry Coburn of Kasaan. Anna is now living in Seattle and working for the UW Alumni Association.



Milestones Continued



Bill & Pauline Blackstad

Bill & Pauline Blackstad celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary on October 2nd at a party hosted by the Pioneer Home staff. These photographs were taken by Janelle and Matt Hyatt. From left to right front row are Rose Boguslawski, Pauline Blackstad and Bill Blackstad. Middle Row standing are Yvonna Christensen, Opal Olsen, Fred Olsen, Inga Olsen, Diane Demmert and Mary Jones. Back Row standing are Debbie Spigai, Matt Hyatt, Janelle Hyatt, and Willard Jones. Besides family, Mr. & Mrs. Hershall Ford, Mr. & Mrs. Sayers McAlpin, and Hall Anderson, a photographer from the Ketchikan Daily News attended the event. Several Kivilco Board Members along with other family members sent a large floral arrangement.

The honored couple sipped sparkling cider and enjoyed gourmet cookies and candy. There was live music, the tables were decorated with lovely table cloths and flowers. There was delicious cake and lots of socializing. Everyone had a great time.



Erma Lawrence Celebrates 90th Birthday

On August 2, 2002

Erma Lawrence turned 90. On Sunday, August 4, her family held a huge celebration at Daybreak Star, an American Indian Center, in Seattle, Washington. The celebration lasted from 9:00 am until 10:00 p.m. with Erma teaching Haida language lessons in the morning to a group of about 13 people. Local Haida, Tlingit, and Tsimshian dancers performed at the party. Over 200 guests enjoyed a sit down dinner which included ham, turkey, and 170 pounds of fresh salmon from Petersburg, Alaska. All six of Erma's children were in attendance including Herb, Al, Mary Ann, David, Marge, and Johnny. Others attending this special event were Erma's 14 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren, and 5 great-great-grandchildren. Two grandchildren, John Thomas Gilham, living in Montana, and Jodi Lawrence living in California, traveled to the party and were able to meet their grandmother Erma for the first time.

Erma's guests of honor were Meryeld (Swanson) Parker, widow of a former Hydaburg minister, and Louse (Morrison) Arrington. Many of the guests gave speeches in Erma's honor, and in turn Erma made everyone happy by singing in Haida. Erma said of the event, "It felt wonderful to be surrounded by so much love and joy."

May we all live as long and joyfully as you have, Erma!



KHHF SEEKS DONATED ITEMS FOR FUND-RAISING RAFFLE

Last year KHHF raised over \$200 at a raffle held in conjunction with Kavilco's annual dinner. This year, KHHF hopes to raise even more money and seeks contributions for baskets filled with donated items. We welcome any small gifts you can spare. Suggestions: home made jams, jellies, smoked fish, wild asparagus, handiwork, crafts, pretty dishtowels or anything else you could contribute to our worthy cause. We will pick up or pay for mailing if you will not be in Ketchikan for the meeting. Leave a message with Willard Jones in Ketchikan at 247-2618, if you can help with a donated item.



CORRECTION

In the April, 2002 newsletter we incorrectly reported Erma Lawrence's Birthday as being August 12th, when in fact her Birthday is August 2nd.

Haida Word of the Week

Here are words still used by our Elders. For pronunciation, we encourage you to ask an Elder.

Week 1

Haida Word	English Translation
K'yóu (rhymes with "blue")	clam or door

Week 2

Haida Word	English Translation
táay (rhymes with "guy")	coho salmon

Week 3

Haida Word	English Translation
kil (rhymes with "mill")	voice

Week 4

Haida Word	English Translation
jaa (rhymes with "law")	wife

Week 5

Haida Word	English Translation
juk (rhymes with "book")	gun

Week 6

Haida Word	English Translation
kuk (rhymes with "look")	firewood

Week 7

Haida Word	English Translation
dúun (rhymes with "loon")	younger brother or sister

Week 8

Haida Word	English Translation
kwáay (rhymes with "why")	hips

Haida words from *Haida Dictionary* compiled by Erma Lawrence. English pronunciation compliments of Julie Coburn.



Haida Basketry By Master Weaver

Master Weaver Holly Churchill from Ketchikan, Alaska taught a Haida basket weaving class at Israel Shotridge's school on Vashon Island, Washington November 1-3, 2002. For more information about future classes, please contact Sue Shotridge at 206-463-1390 or 206-567-5826.



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