

Kasaan Haida Heritage Foundation Newsletter

F A L L 2 0 0 3



GRANT WORK COMPLETE!

The Kasaan Haida Elders Interview Project is now officially closed out with Alaska Humanities Forum! Háwaa to all the people who gave generously of their time and energy, most especially our elders: Pauline Blackstad, Erma Lawrence, Mae Leask, Julie Coburn, Harriett McCallister, Catherine Kerrstetter, Willard Jones. The complete edited video is now available for sale to Kasaan people for \$10. plus shipping. Others may purchase the video for \$20. + shipping. If you were not at Kavalco's annual meeting last year, and would like to purchase a video please contact Jeane Breinig at 907-523-8999, or email jeane@gci.net. Original audio tapes of the interviews with transcripts are housed at the University of Alaska Fairbanks Oral History Depository.

On a shoestring budget of \$19,554 (Grant funds plus YOUR Cash Donations) the project goals were successfully completed. The complete project involved hundreds of hours and would have cost many tens of thousands of dollars more if not for the work of many committed volunteers. This truly could not have been possible without your support and volunteer help. In addition to the Project Staff (Willard Jones, Eleanor Hadden, Fred Olsen Jr and Jeane Breinig) many others helped out by providing food, housing, car and boat travel, escorting or helping interview elders, etc. These volunteer helpers who deserve a big hand include: Juanita Smith, Helen Benge, Mary Jones, Louis Jones, Perry Coburn, Della Coburn, Sharon Leask, Dana Ruaro, Marjorie (Pudgie) Zeman, Fred Olsen Sr., Inga Olsen, Linda White. Additionally, thank you to Louis Thompson for identifying the Kasaan houses in USFS photograph from 1920, and also Charisse Dwyer, Kavalco's Corporate Secretary for many hours helping keep the paperwork straight.



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

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 Kivilco, Inc.
600 University St., Ste 3010
Seattle WA 98101**

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

**ANNUAL DINNER
RAFFLE NETS \$617**

After the Kivilco Annual Dinner in November, 2003 KHHF sponsored a raffle and netted \$617. Funds will be used to develop further Haida language and cultural heritage projects. Háwaa to everyone who participated, especially our donors. Most of the donated goods went towards creating Gift Baskets to raffle during the Chinese Auction. Willard Jones emceed the event.

Thank you to those who donated goods to fill the Baskets!

Caroline Hendrixson:

Wild Asparagus (1 case); 3 cases Gourmet Specialty Jam & Jellies: Blueberry Elderberry Jam, Blueberry Jam, Huckleberry Jam, Elderberry Jelly

Diane Demmert: Several Pints of Wild Asparagus, Pints of Smoked Sockeye, & Fresh Sockeye, Blueberry Jam

Harriet McAllister: Handbeaded Pin cushions

Ramona Hamar: Smoked Sockeye (1 case of ½ pints)

Catherine Kerrstetter: Crocheted dishcloths

Paige Jones: Crocheted Kleenex box holder, and dishcloths

Eleanor Hadden: Pint Kenai Sockeye, Raffle Baskets

Julie & Perry Coburn: Pint Smoked Coho

Mary & Willard Jones: Raffle Baskets with Decorated Paper, Berry Picking Bucket

Christmas dishtowels, T-Shirts

Laird Jones: Candy Snowman & NW Coast design baseball cap

Grand Prize Basket Winner: Kenneth Gordon

Special Thank you to Opal Olsen and Diane Willard for their noteworthy contributions, auctioned separately:

Opal donated one of her beautiful hand crafted miniature spruce root baskets. The lucky winner of this was Melanie Locklear. Diane Willard contributed a watch with one of her own Haida designs on the face. The watch was won by Mike Miller.

Raffle Donations Needed For This Year!

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.

NEW VIDEO TO BE SHOWN AT ANNUAL MEETING DINNER!

KHHF commissioned Frederick Olsen, Jr., the original project's media specialist, to produce a SECOND video to e shown at the upcoming annual dinner on November 15, 2003.

Exciting New Haida Language Website

If you are interested in hearing Erma Lawrence speak Haida, but do not have the opportunity to sit right next to her, get on the Internet and go to this web address:

<http://www.haidalanguage.org/sounds-of-haida.html>

Jordan Lachler, a new linguist at Sealaska Heritage Institution, recorded Erma Lawrence speaking Haida in March at her home in Ketchikan. With this, he has created a website where you can go and practice your Haida language lessons. Within the site, just click on the word and then you will hear Erma giving the correct pronunciation.

Thanks, Erma!

Then for more fun and daily Haida language lessons go to:

<http://www.haidalanguage.org/>

Here is a sample of one of the lessons found there:

k'áat -- deer

Listen: <http://www.haidalanguage.org/sounds/wordof theday/deer.mp3>

Speaker: Erma Lawrence
Dialect: Kasaan, Alaska

The website is currently being maintained by Sealaska Heritage Institute.

Milestones



Erma Lawrence Awarded Honorary Doctorate from University of Alaska

The Board of Regents of the University of Alaska Southeast has selected Erma Lawrence to receive an Honorary Doctorate degree for her significant lifetime contributions to the Haida language. They will confer her degree at a graduation ceremony in Ketchikan in the Spring.

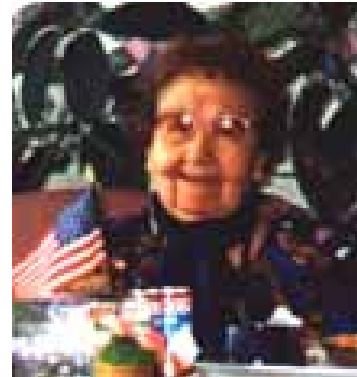
Pauline Blackstad --- 100 Years Young



Bill & Pauline in 1947



Pauline - sometime
between 1919-1921



Happy 100!

Pauline Blackstad, our eldest elder turns 100 this November 16th. She and her husband Bill Blackstad have been married 76 years on October 2, 2003.

In honor of Pauline's birthday, we will sing "Happy Birthday" and "Shine on Harvest Moon" (one of her favorites) to her at the dinner following the regularly scheduled Annual Meeting on November 15th.

Henry Jones Receives Award and Nominated for Another

Henry Jones, son of Louis and Lathalia Jones, will be starting his 3rd year at University of Buffalo Law School and will graduate May 15, where upon admission, he was awarded a Stromberg fellowship. The award paid his full tuition, plus living expenses for the full three years. Throughout his graduate studies, Henry has developed a strong interest in Tax Law, and during the 2003 tax season volunteered his time filling out tax returns for low-income

individuals, families, and businesses. Because of this work, Professor Lauren Breen nominated him for the 2002-2003 American Bar Association Law Student Division Annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Rookie—a prestigious national award.

In addition to Henry's tax work, he has also volunteered at a local soup kitchen helping low income and homeless people understand and act if necessary on behalf of their legal rights. He is currently a Student Practice Lawyer for the Housing Court (Neighborhood Legal Services) where he represents low-income individuals on housing court issues. Henry's future plans include continuing his volunteer work while specializing in Tax Law. He wants to live permanently near high population of Native American/Alaska Native communities so he can continue to give back to his community.

Henry is married to Crystal (Aitkens) a Prairie band Potawatomi. They met while attending Haskell Indian College and are the proud parents of three year old daughter Peyton.

Kasaan Hosts Unique Graduation and Name Giving Ceremony

Includes excerpts from an article by Joanne Markell
Ketchikan Daily News



Amanda Hendrixson, second from right, was the only graduate from the Southeast Island School District's Kasaan School this year. On left is Amanda's mom, Audrey Escoffon and Amanda's sister, Eliza Mae Wallace. Amanda's aunt Ardath Peterson is on the far right. All four were given Haida names at the ceremony. Photo courtesy Samuel Peterson.

Graduation continued

Amanda Hendrixson, 18, daughter of Audrey Escoffon, and granddaughter of Caroline Hendrixson, was the only student to graduate from the Southeast Island's school in Kasaan on May 24, 2003. "I've had hard times and I've had really good times," she said of attending school in the small Prince of Wales Community. In Kasaan, we're pretty much related, so everyone in school was family.

About 50 people attended Amanda's graduation which also was a Haida name-giving ceremony. Amanda received a name from her grandmother Caroline Hendrixson—*T'aw-jaat* which means "Copper Lady." Several other family members also received names, including Amanda's mother Audrey Escoffon, Amanda's aunt Ardath Peterson, and Amanda's younger sister Eliza Mae Wallace. They were also presented with button blankets, raven headbands and drum—all handmade by Caroline Hendrixson. Caroline, her children and grandchildren are all Raven, Brown Bear, Taslaanas clan, which translates loosely as "the sand people."

Cherilyn Holter of Hydaburg, who facilitated the ceremony, said Kasaan hasn't had a Haida name-giving ceremony since 1927. "When you get the name, the name doesn't belong to you, you belong to it, so it is something to look up to," Holter said. Some of the names were old and prominent, so they were very valuable names given away that day." Witnesses from the opposite clan were invited to the name-giving and were paid with a flower and a dollar. It is a traditional to pay witnesses," she said.

"It was a beautiful thing to witness," she said, "because it was done correctly. It was very touching."

Amanda plans to attend the Seattle Art Institute to study illustrations and graphic design.

Haida Word of the Week

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

Haida - English Word Translation

K'yúu - clam or door
(rhymes with "blue")

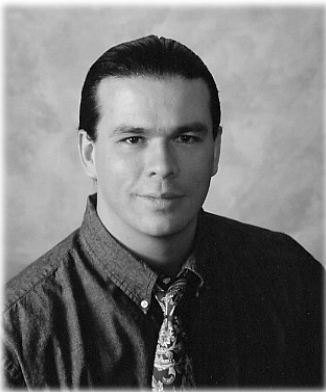
táay - coho salmon
(rhymes with "guy")

kíl - voice
(rhymes with "mill")

Haida
Word of the Week
Continued

jaa - wife
(rhymes with "law")

juk - gun
(rhymes with "book")



John Campbell Receives Degree

John Campbell graduated in June from University of Washington Business School with a BS in Business Administration and a minor in American Indian Studies. He is currently working with Professors Robin Wright and Marvin Oliver on Haida cultural and political issues and is seeking employment with Native Tribes and State and local governments.

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