

# U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER



**APRIL 1989**

## COVER PHOTOGRAPH

The two women standing were daughters of Chief Joe Harris. On the left is Gwanti'lakw (Mary Jane), who married Stanley Hunt, on the right is 'Wadzidalaga (Martha), who married Paul Rufus. Seated on the left is Gwiki'lakw (Katie Dita Silas) The woman with the baby is 'Yaku'yugwa (Margaret Matilpi). The baby may be her son Charlie (Tsabani), if so, the photograph was taken in 1922. The child sitting in front may be Joe Rufus.

## FROM THE CURATOR

The last issue of the newsletter was sent out in November, 1988 and we apologize for the long delay in getting this one out. We'll try to catch up during the rest of the year.

Since November, there have been five meetings of the Advisory Committee on Native Heritage Centres, one of which was held at the Cultural Centre on March 15th. I attended one meeting of the Advisory Committee on Culture for the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, held in Ottawa and on the same trip, met with the design team for the Wa'kas House Exhibit, Canadian Museum of Civilization.

The highlight of the past few months was the dinner held on March 4th at the Community Hall, which was primarily to show our appreciation for Gwanti'lakw (Agnes Cranmer). At the age of 82, she is still actively involved in teaching dance classes for T̄isalagi'lakw School and continues to be one of our most valuable resource people at the Centre. The event also celebrated my 10th year with the Centre.

We thank all members of the U'mista Cultural Society who contributed in so many ways to the success of the dinner, among them, Roy Cranmer who brought sacks of clams and crabs from Gilford Island, the many people who provided the delicious food, Bob Joseph for being the master of ceremonies, Andrea Cranmer and the students of T̄isalagi'lakw School for the hall decorations, the Alert Bay Village Council for the use of the Community Hall, those who helped setting up and then cleaning the hall afterwards.

Out-of-town friends who joined the celebration included Marilyn Chichik and her husband Michael, Jim Haggerty and Kevin Neary from the Provincial Museum, Michael Hobbs, representing the Canadian Museum of Civilization, Arthur Jackson and Ed Newman from the Native Brotherhood, Jay Powell and Vickie Jensen from Vancouver, Judy Hoffman from Chicago. Our relatives included Frances and Danny Fullerton, Kelly Webster, Emily Baker and Lilac Fehlaue from the lower mainland. Nunu Knox, Bea and Ladi Alfred, Mabel and Petey Knox and Emma Hunt joined us from Fort Rupert and from Qualicum, the Recalmas, Laura-Ann, Jake, Joanna and Emily.

There were a number of messages from friends who were unable to attend and here are some quotes from them:

"I find it as hard to believe that ten years have passed since Gloria started the construction (and considerably more since she got me involved) as I found it hard to believe on that wonderful day in 1980 when the Centre opened that she had actually managed to pull it off.

Along the way, it seemed we had done everything from surviving drunken dinners with bureaucrats in the University Club to standing up to our waists in the water with a bunch of lawyers drag-seining the Nimpkish for the benefit of a BBC film crew. All we caught were rocks and seaweed, but somehow, out of it all, came the U'mista Cultural Centre."

Henry Hawthorn.

"Congratulations on your 10th anniversary at the U'mista Cultural Centre. Your support has helped make the U'mista Cultural Centre an inspiration for the future generation."

Dave and Flora Dawson.

"Congratulations for your many years of hard work and magnificent achievements with the U'mista Cultural Centre. You have led in the creation of an inspirational teaching centre and one destined to preserve for all time a record of the rich culture of your people."

Norman and Doris Boas.

"The U'mista Cultural Centre offers people an opportunity to learn about the artistic achievements of past generations and provides inspiration for Kwakwaka'wakw artists today and in the future. We would like to donate two historic north-west coast baskets, circa 1900-1930, to the U'mista Cultural Centre in recognition of the dedicated work of Agnes Cranmer and Gloria Cranmer Webster. Congratulations to Agnes and Gloria."

Lorne Balshine and Sheila Romalis.

"Your accomplishments as Director of the Center have been outstanding. Because of your tireless efforts, the art, language and culture of the Kwakwaka'wakw people not merely flourish, but present a great challenge to other cultures (especially my own!) who look to yours with appreciation and not just a little envy."

Aldona Jonaitis.

"Please tell our friends in Alert Bay our good feelings are with all of you and good wishes to Agnes and Gloria at the special dinner."

Grieg and Ann Arnold.

I feel very honoured to have received these messages and others which were given at the March 4th dinner. At the same time, I realize that my accomplishments would not have been possible without the support and encouragement of my family and our membership. Like every other job, mine is, at times, difficult, but for the most part, what I do is very rewarding. To help me through the occasional bad times, I will remember the good wishes of friends and family. Being part of

the Centre and its success gives me a great deal of satisfaction. and I feel fortunate to work in such a wonderful place.

From our membership, Gwanti'lakw received a drum, painted with a raven design and I received a gold bracelet. These are very special gifts, which we will treasure, as we will treasure other gifts and our memories of a fine evening together. Gwanti'lakw joins me in thanking every one who shared the March 4th occasion with us. Gilakasdaxw'la.

Gloria Cranmer Webster.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

With a small grant from the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund of the Anglican Church, the Photographic Archives Project was started in December 1988. Lorraine Hunt and Denise Cranmer began working by cataloguing all of our existing photograph and slide collections. The more important task and the next phase of the project was to photograph old photographs. Beginning with the collections of Agnes Cranmer and Annie Cedar, they have accumulated quite a number of photographs. Lorraine and Denise are finding the project very interesting and are learning a lot about the early history and family connections of our community. The collection of old photographs will be a valuable addition to the resources the Centre has to offer and we are grateful for the cooperation of the owners of photographs for allowing them to be copied.

## MUNGO MARTIN EXHIBIT

At the end of November, Michael Tanner was given a contract to begin planning the Mungo Martin exhibit, which will form part of our 10th anniversary celebrations in 1990. Michael has an M.A. from the University of Victoria and had previously completed research contracts for the British Columbia Provincial Museum. He has been busy tracking down works by Mungo Martin from a number of museums across the continent and has submitted proposals to various funding sources to finance the exhibit. There has been considerable interest in the exhibit, which will travel after its opening here on November 1st, 1990. Among the museums which have requested the exhibit are: British Columbia Provincial Museum, Kwagu'ł Museum, Alberta Provincial Museum, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, Vancouver Museum, Brooklyn Museum in New York, Canadian Museum of Civilization. If any of our members own works by Mungo Martin or know of other owners of pieces, we would like to hear from you.

The main purpose of the exhibit is to acknowledge the many contributions Mungo Martin made toward the survival of our culture. He was a carver, painter, singer, composer, oral historian and a fine teacher. The works of Mungo's students and their students will be included in the exhibit, to illustrate the impact that he had and continues to have on art forms of the Kwakwaka'wakw.

## BINGO

The Bingo licence we applied for last November, finally arrived and we are holding a weekly Bingo every Tuesday night. From the four held so far, we have raised:

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| March 29 | 552.00   |
| April 5  | 998.00   |
| 12       | 852.50   |
| 19       | 920.05   |
|          | <hr/>    |
|          | 3,322.55 |

OUR THANKS TO BINGO PLAYERS WHO  
SUPPORT US ON TUESDAY NIGHTS.

Our license specifies that revenues are to be used for Salmonista Video equipment, Educational Projects, Special Events and general operating costs of the Centre. Video and general costs are fairly straightforward. Educational Projects include a proposed program on uses of cedar bark, with Bingo funds to go towards the cost of renting a van for a cedar bark-stripping trip and to pay for an instructor to demonstrate the process of preparing the bark for use in weaving.

The Special Events Fund covers a number of costs, including gifts to cultural exchange groups, such as the Maori and Ainu. Most recently, the U'mista Cultural Society donated \$500.00 from its Special Events Fund to Chief Paiakan, who visited us on April 16th. He is a spokesman for the Kayapo natives of the Amazon region in Brazil, where clear-cut logging and industrial development are endangering the lives and lands of the people.

Out of the Special Events Fund, we also pay for trips, such as the visit to Neah Bay last year. Some time between May 14 and October 15, this year, we plan to see the "Crossroads of Continents" exhibit at the Seattle Centre Pavilion. March 15, 1990 is the date we have been invited to New Zealand by the Maori group who visited us last year. The Maori annual canoe regatta takes place at that time and next year, they are also celebrating the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Maori nation. Compared to the New Zealand trip, the Seattle trip will require minimal fund-raising for travel, but money needs to be raised for both. We know that quite a few local members are interested in visiting the Maori and have decided that eligibility for the trip will be dependent on active participation in fund-raising, except for our old people.

Members who have visited the Big House recently can appreciate the urgent need for renovations and repairs. During the cold weather, there was considerable damage from frozen pipes and fixtures. These will have to be repaired and replaced. The leaks in the roof have to be fixed. Again, our Special Events Fund will pay for the materials required and we hope that local members will provide volunteer labour, when needed. The cost of up-keep and repairs for the Big House cannot be covered by our Centre's limited budget and, as the Big House belongs to all the Kwakwaka'wakw, all of us should help in the maintenance of the building.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
AT 7:00 P.M., APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup>  
IN THE U'MISTA CULTURAL CENTRE

At the meeting we will discuss fund-raising for the proposed Seattle and New Zealand trips, plans for our 10th anniversary celebration, ideas for future exhibits and other topics of interest to members. At the last membership meeting held on April 12th, it was suggested that, in this newsletter, we outline some ideas members had for activities to be sponsored by the Centre. We are asking that you check these out and indicate which ones you are interested in. You can then let us know at the April 27th meeting.

- SEAWEED GATHERING: A one-day trip to gather seaweed, followed by a demonstration of proper drying techniques.
- CEDAR BARK: A one-day trip to gather cedar bark, followed by a weekend workshop to learn how to prepare the bark, then another workshop to learn basic weaving techniques.
- BUTTON BLANKETS: One evening a week at the Centre, where help will be available for beginners who want to make their own blankets.
- FILM/VIDEO: One evening a week at the Centre, for screening of films and videos dealing with native issues.

If you have any other suggestions, please bring them to the meeting on the 27th.

### WILD HARVEST

Members are invited to a preview of this exhibit, which is on loan from the British Columbia Provincial Museum. The preview will be held at the Centre, at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 8th. For those of you who can't attend, we have WILD HARVEST until June 21st. and we encourage you to see it.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As our members know, five of the Directors on our Board are elected every year. This year, the terms of the following expire:

Bill Cranmer  
 Flora Dawson  
 Elizabeth Nelson  
 Peter Smith  
 Harry Walkus

Some of these directors may not run again, so members are asked to give some thought to nominating people who can make a real commitment and contribution to the Centre. Our annual meeting at which elections take place will be held in either late May or early June. Notices will be sent out, when our audit is complete.

## CHIEF PAIAKAN

The week before we welcomed Chief Paiakan to Alert Bay, Andrea Cranmer screened a video, documenting the devastation of the tribal lands of the native people of the Amazon. Every class of T̄hisalagi'lakw School saw the video and Andrea encouraged the students to write letters to members of parliament. The following are examples of the students' letters:

"My name is Tara Wilson. I am nine years old. I am in grade four. My school is cald T̄hisalagi'lakw. If you can't say it, you can just say T.school. I live in Alert Bay, B.C.

I am writing to you about the government of Brazil. I want you to stop Brazil government from allowing people to cut down the amazon rain forest.  
 If they keep cutting the rain forest it will destroy the world.  
 Please help chief Payakin and the other tribes."

"My name is Jennifer Speck. I am nine years old. I'm in grade four and I go to T̄hisalagi'lakw School. The school is in Alert Bay, B.C.

I am writing about the govern ment of Brazil. I want the government from Brazil to stop allowing the people to cut down the rain forest. It will destroy the wor ld."

"Save our rain forests. We learned a lot from the video. We will write a bad letter to MacDonalDs. We will eat somewhere else."

(Gus Cook, Grade 2)

# U'MISTA GREAT PARTY



←  
Bill Cranmer, Chairman,  
Board of Directors, Pres-  
enting gift from our  
membership



→  
Michael Hobbs, presenting  
gift from the Canadian  
Museum of Civilization

Front and centre: Gwanti'lakw (Agnes Cranmer) with her first cousins, Ladi (Hazel) Alfred, Nunu (Helen) Knox and Stanley Hunt; her nieces, Emily Baker, Lilac Fehlauer, Barbara Hunt, Sande Willie and nephew, Frank Willie.



Sharing local gossip, Gwanti'lakw and Kutsam (David) Cook, one of her many grandchildren



Looking forward to the party are Jim Haggarty and Davina Hunt. Congratulations many thanks for seven great years, Didzi.





GILAKAS'LA GILAKAS'LA GILAKAS'LA GILAKAS'LA

We have received the following gifts, donations, grants and good news since November, 1988:

Garfinkel Productions donation to co-ordinate the printing of the poster to mark the return of the Royal Ontario Museum's part of the Potlatch Collection.

2 jars of naxwaskan from the Morgan family,

1 seaweed cake, 2 sticks of clams from Elsie Williams,

A donation of \$50.00 from Margaret Murdoch,

A donation of \$100.00 from Sharon Flavelle,

Drum Raffle raised \$800.00 for "Special Events" Fund, thank you supporters,

Winner of the Drum donated by George Hunt Jr., drawn on Dec.22nd, had been Bruce Parisian from Victoria,

The Earth is Our Home video, from Dan Mattson, Warm Springs Reservation, Oregon,

A donation of \$25.00 from Larry Garfinkel,

Charcoal Drawing framed, 3 photographs from Martha Peterson,

\$14,000.00 from Cultural Services Branch,

Revenue from "Box of Treasures", \$2,629.32, distributed by Canadian Filmmakers Distribution West,

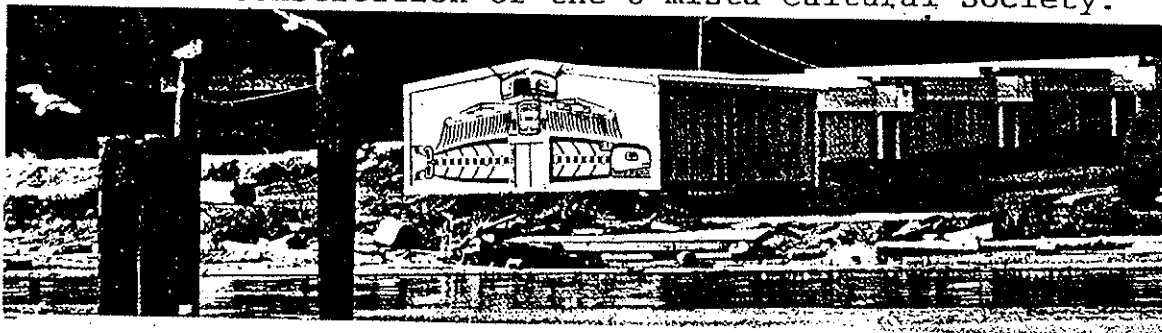
A donation of \$100.00 from Kwakiutl District Council,

Bingo on Dec.14th raised \$335.00, thank you supporters and Cormorant Recreation Association for the bingo.

\$10,700.00 from Secretary of State,

A donation of \$200.00 from Andrea & Dick Sanborn,

We are very grateful for the generosity and support shown by the above individuals and organizations, which encourage us to continue in our efforts to meet the goals as set out in the constitution of the U'mista Cultural Society.



UP COMING TENTH ANNIVERSARY  
NOV 1, 1980 - NOV 1, 1990

# GIFT SHOP

The Christmas Sale had been a success, especially the new mugs and hooded sweatshirts. In the near future, the gift shop will re-stock with new t-shirts for the summer season. So, keep your eyes open, it will be soon!

## INVENTORY CLEAR-OUT SALE

MARCH 22nd-31st

The items on sale will be all shirts with the Centre's logo, hooded sweatshirts, polo shirts, everything that is available. Remember to come early while stocks last! Also, the videos "Box of Treasures" and "Potlatch...a strict law bids us dance" at a 20% discount, along with notecards & postcards.

If, you are an out-of-town member please feel free to write, to take advantage of the sale prices c/o Davina Hunt, Registrar/Gift Shop Manager.

## RAFFLE TICKETS BUY SOME TODAY!

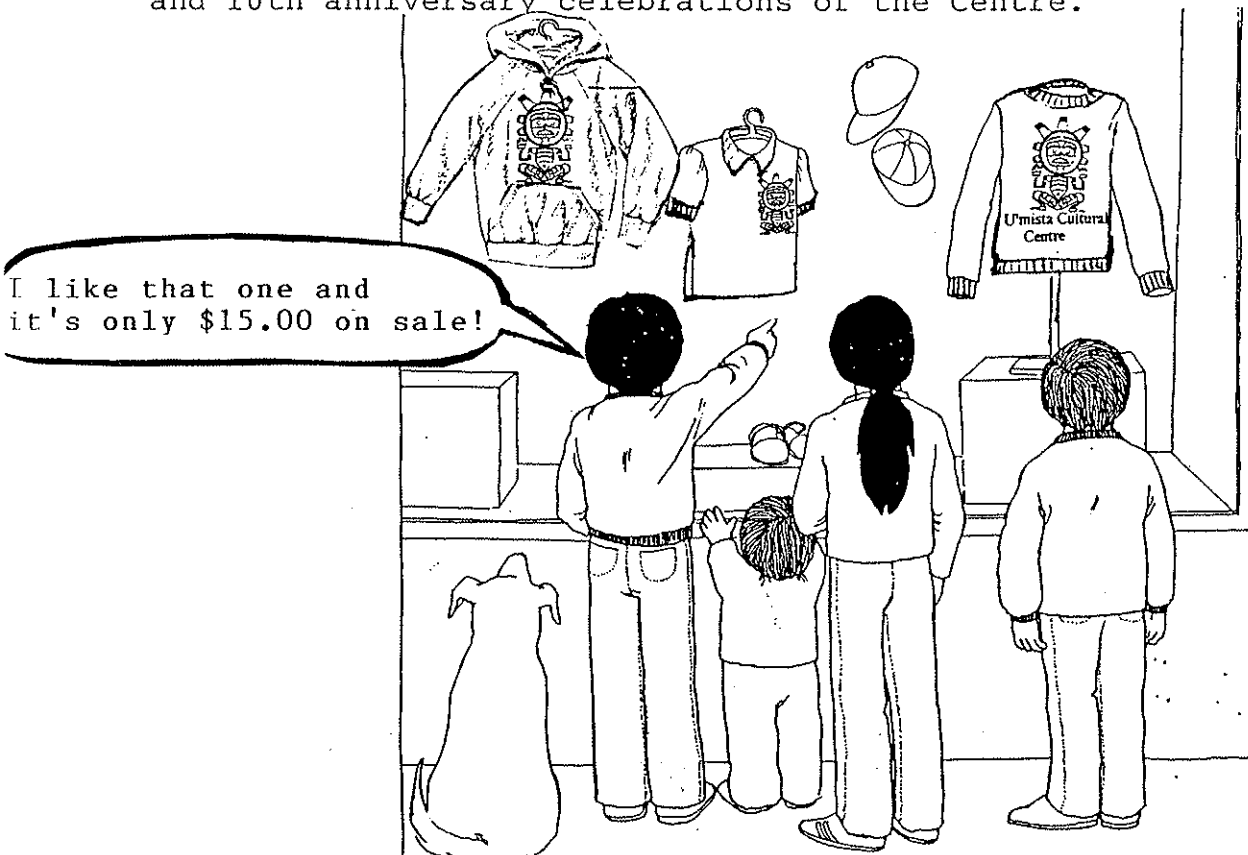
1st PRIZE MOSQUITO PRINT DONATED BY DOUG CRANMER

2nd PRIZE ABALONE EAR.&PEND. SET BY JOHN LANCASTER

3rd PRIZE PADDLE BY STEPHEN HUNT \$1.00 per ticket

DRAW DATE MARCH 27/89 changed to APRIL 14th/89

Sorry for any inconvenience to supporters, who have purchased tickets but, the date needed to be changed due to lack of ticket sales. Proceeds of ticket sales will go towards "Special Events" Fund, to host appreciation dinners, trips for old people and 10th anniversary celebrations of the Centre.



# MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members and thank them for their support:

Judie Medcalf  
Shirley Matilpi  
Bruce Burrows  
Susan Pielle  
Jean Warburton  
Sherry Johnson  
Steve Halliday  
Art Hunt  
John Laidlaw  
John Cossom  
Mr. Arjium Chauhan

Marion Rumble  
Val Bearpark  
Judy Roberts  
Elizabeth Harry  
Glenn Miles  
Beverly Scow  
Sharon Sear  
Christine McDougall  
Diva Vinciguerra  
Leslie Tepper

We also thank the following people for continuing to support the Centre by renewing their membership in the Society.

Eva Dick  
Susan Wallace  
Roy Jones Jr.  
Lorraine Cook  
Vicki Hamilton  
Cookie Hunt  
Donna Stauffer  
Lorraine Hunt  
Jeff & Ann Wright  
Elvi Whittaker  
Elizabeth Weigold  
Evelyn Dick  
Vickie Jensen  
Norine Charlie  
Gloria C. Webster  
Sharon Alfred  
Stella Beans  
Martha Peterson  
Nola Johnston  
Jean Gallant  
Ann Howatt Krahn  
Louise Sorensen

Michael Hobbs  
Vera Newman  
Myles Macleod  
Marie Mauze  
Gina Wadhams  
Betty Lindberg  
Linda Gilarski  
William Wasden  
Elizabeth Prangnell  
Patsy Cook  
Norman Dale  
Bobby & Arlene Stadnyk  
Roy Cranmer  
Margaret Lalear  
Rosemary McKeown  
Davina Hunt  
Peter Kuttner  
Marilyn Dawson  
Andrea Sanborn  
Chuck Olin  
David A. Dawson  
Judy Kaufman & Dave Perry

WE INVITE ALL MEMBERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR DISCOUNT AND SUGGEST THAT YOU CHECK YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD FOR THE EXPIRY DATE.

SEE YOU DURING INVENTORY SALE!!!!!!!!



\_\_\_\_\_ is a member in good standing of

**U'mista Cultural Centre**

Renewal Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary