

HUNA TRIBAL HOUSE CARVINGS



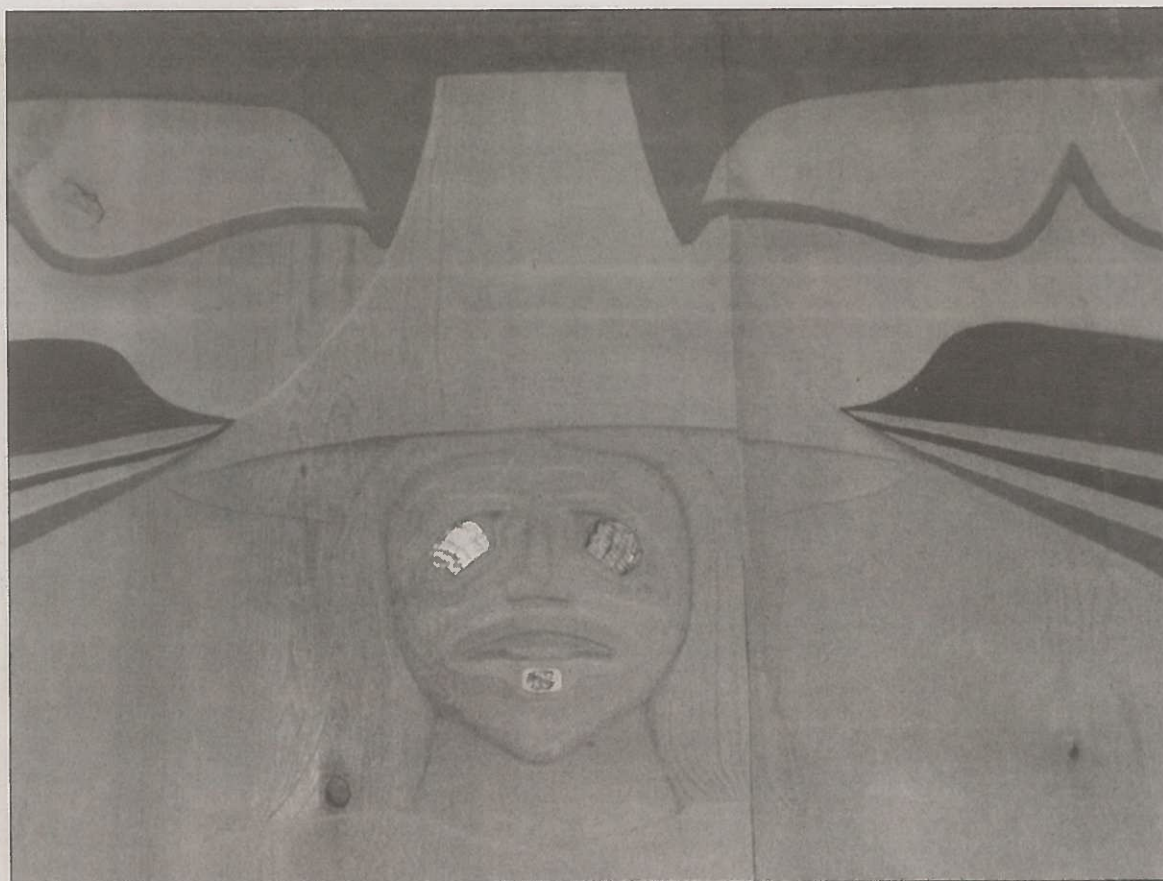
Photos by Mary Catharine Martin | Capital City Weekly
From left to right, lead carver Gordon Greenwald, carver Herb Sheakley, and carver Owen James work on the second of two 20-foot totem poles that will be placed outside Xúna Shuká Hit (the Huna Tribal House) in Glacier Bay.



ABOVE: Carver Owen James, who's been working on the Xúna Shuká Hit panels and totems for the last several years, stands with a paddle he's making for his daughter.

RIGHT: Carver Herb Sheakley stands with the second of two totem poles that will be placed outside Xúna Shuká Hit (the Huna Tribal House) in Glacier Bay.

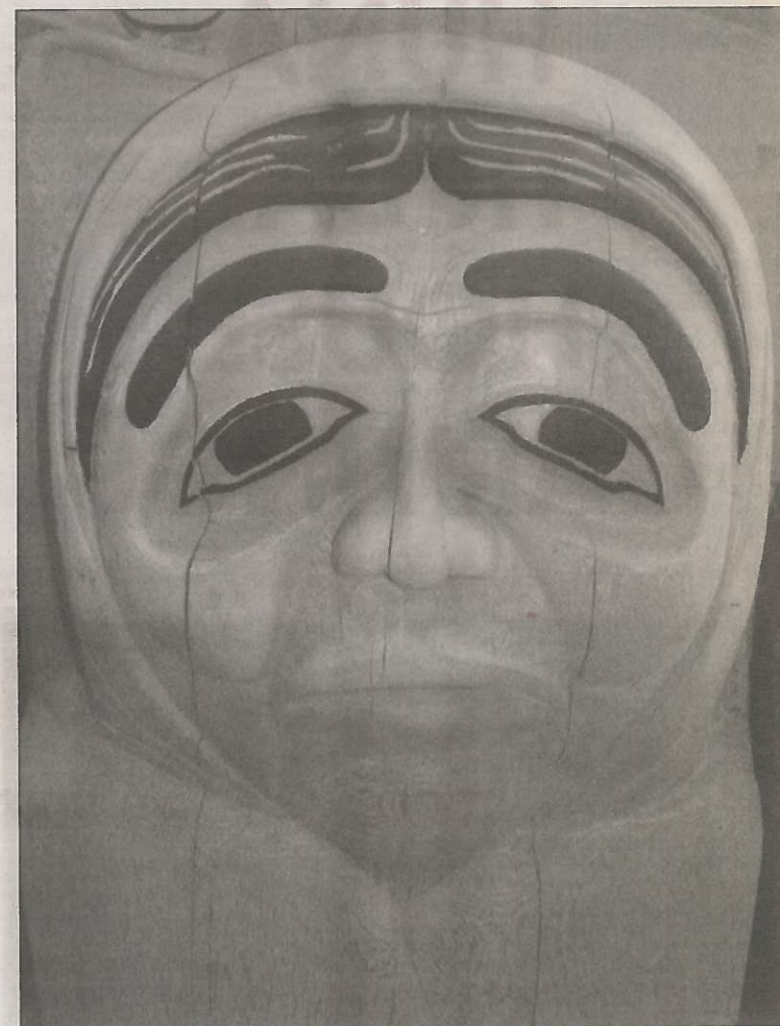




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The story of Kasteen is central to the departure of the Huna Tlingit from Glacier Bay. The carvers have honored two versions of the story. The door to the tribal house is a circle that will be removed from the center of Kasteen, a young girl who behaved disrespectfully to the glacier, calling it to the village. When everyone left, she chose to stay behind. The abalone in her eyes is the reflection of the glacier she can see approaching. In the other version, Kasteen took the offer of her grandmother, Shaawatséek', to stay behind in her place. Shaawatséek' is at the base of the Chookaneidi totem, as her strength supports everyone. "One of the things I was trying to capture is an emotion," said carver Gordon Greenwald.

Story of Kasteen



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Rare quiver donated to Alutiiq Museum

A rare quiver from Kodiak's King family will return home to be placed on display at the Alutiiq Museum.

Roger and Donna King brought the artifact to the Burke Museum in Seattle for an identification event. There they met former Alutiiq Museum executive director Sven Haakanson Jr., who recognized the piece as a unique Alutiiq quiver and suggested that the Kings donate it to the Alutiiq Museum.

"Family-owned items like this are so important to our people," Haakanson explained. "They help us to learn about our history and reawaken traditions. Our carvers are just starting to relearn how to make such quivers. Thanks to access to this piece, carvers on Kodiak will be able to study in detail the craftwork of our ancestors and bring this tradition to life once again."

The quiver is considered to be in excellent condition and comes with a detailed family history, said Marnie Leist, the Alutiiq Museum curator of collections.

Currently the piece is in collection storage as the Museum decides the best way to display it.