

SKEENA TOTEM POLE RESTORATION SOCIETY

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The HON. GEORGE R. PEARKES, V.C.

Advisor: WILSON DUFF
Provincial Anthropologist

Chairman: Restoration Committee
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October 29/67

Dear Wilson,

Several things have happened which I thought you might like to know about.

The four new poles at Kitwancool are now standing smartly along the roadway. One of the B.C. Centennial "Stop of Interest" signs stands in front of them.....with the permission of the people of Kitwancool.

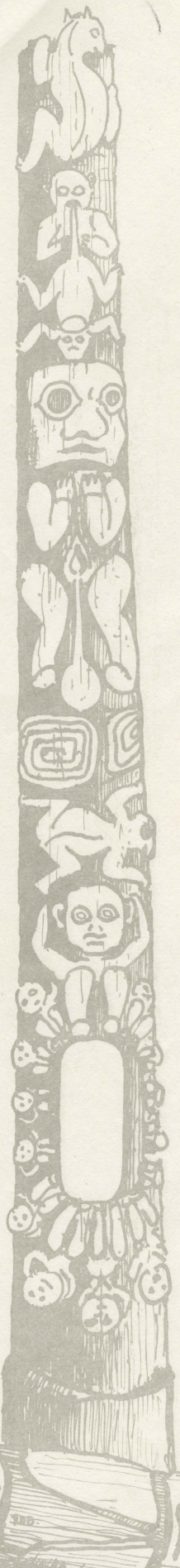
The majority of the old poles are also standing again, and look "right!" You'll like them I think.

Our problem child, the "Hole-in-the-Sky" or Hole-in-the-Ice, or---- is still standing in its original location. I expect that Mr. Ward has been in touch with you regarding his visit here, and suggestions regarding that and the four or five other fragile poles which are too punky to stand on their own. The people of Kitwancool do not want the Hole-in-the-Sky moved. I think that they have at last cottoned to its Mona Lisa value.....As you know, it is not in my heart to move that pole from Kitwancool, but it was Mr. Ward's firm opinion that we should approach them about moving it, So we did so. Perhaps my heart was not sufficiently in the proposal, though I tried to put the matter fairly.

We are now having an architect prepared plans for housing that and other frail poles at Kitwancool. I shall meet with them (Kitwancool) soon and get a firm promise from them to properly supervise the poles if we find the dollars to prepare a suitable structure. It will take a lot of dollars.

Wish I could go to the restoration "do" in Alaska next month,

Might get some new leads.



A new pole was raised at Kitwanga on Saturday. Morgan family enterprize and their centennial project. It is very centennial. Complete with flag pole on top for the centennial flag. Close you eyes when you pass it. It has been erected in the Ball Park and should stop quite a few balls. I was invited to the raising because I was "so interested in the great totem poles of our people!" Enclosing picture of the newly erected poles at Kitwancool..... infact I'll send the whole article ~~that~~ went with the picture. Infuriating article as I carefully told newspapers not to make the poles seem more important than the people to whom they belong.. witness the results.

It would have amazed you to attend the Kitwancool "do" for the Lieut-Gov. They were so pleased that he had taken the trouble to come all the way to see them that every chief in the village was present and in regalia and all, in unison, sang a welcome to ^{His Honour} him with rattle in hand. Never thought I'd live to see all the chiefs of Kitwancool sing a welcome to a white man. A perfectly organized and very touching affair from beginning to end. No sour notes. Not one.

Will send along architect's sketches when we get them. Will have to have a Restoration Society meeting in December and should have your opinions before the meeting is held.

One very bad thing about the Lieut-Gov's visit to Kitwancool. They tidied up the ground around the poles and burnt all the small pieces ^{of poles} so things wouldn't look too messy for His Honour!

Wish you could get up here.

As ever,



Polly

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Dec. 18/68

Mr. Wilson Duff,
c/o Department of Anthropology,
University of B.C.

Dear Wilson,

Enclosing copy of architect's plan for the shelter for the
Hole-in-the-Sky or Ice or... at Kitwancool. Some suggested changes
are:-

Backing it so light can be seen, and sky can be seen, through
hole. Can be done

Making roof over pole give more shelter by protruding further

Setting small stones and rocks in the cement around the
bases of poles under shelter in order to disguise
concrete as much as possible.

Use of whole poles in protection walls instead of planks.

[Haven't heard from Sue Ann since return. Do let us know if
she takes a downhill course. Please do.]

Incidentally, this simple structure will cost something like
\$12,000.00. We can afford it, but it seems awfully high to me.

Very sincerely,

Polly Sargent
Polly Sargent

