

2125 Seal Cove Circle,
Prince Rupert, B.C.
June 14, 1965.

Mr. Wilson Duff,
Provincial Museum,
Victoria, B.C.

Dear Mr. Duff:

Perhaps you may recall my visiting your office earlier this spring in connection with material to do with the Haida's, for a book I propose to do on Q.C.I. history. You gave me a fine enlargement of Chief Weah's lodge...a picture that Chief William Matthews had been longing to have for some-time. Mr. Matthews has been gravely ill for most of the winter, spending 4 or 5 months in hospital...so I have been rather anxious about his well-being.

However, when I visited Masset a few weeks ago, I was delighted to know that he was home again, and greatly improved. So much so, that he gave a fine banquet to which I was invited - to my great joy. And occupying the place of honor in his living room was this enlargement of Chief Weah's lodge. I don't think that anything could have pleased this old gentleman any more than that picture. He has been able to identify quite a few of the people in it, with the assistance of others from the village.

As you probably know, the Haida's have a wonderful sense of fun, making repeated reference's as to how wonderful it is that the white man is trying for the moon.."so we'll soon be able to have our land back" down on earth. When he introduced me he told his guests "Oh, she's practically Haida anyway - she was born and raised over on the Islands"...and I guess he made his point for as I showed some of my Old Masset pictures the older folks would lapse into Haida in explaining things to me. Mr. Matthews new home occupies the site of the lodge in that picture, and he was telling me that the great hewn logs that formed part of the centre pit are still in use - the pit is the basement of the new house.

When you are clearing out your office in preparation to the move to the new Museum, Mr. Duff, and if you find you have any more Q.C.I. pictures, large or small, that you can spare - I would be most appreciative indeed if you would let me have them. They are simply invaluable in getting these older people going on long-forgotten names and incidents.

If you are interested in knowing the names of those people in that picture of Chief Weah's lodge here they are - from left to right:- William Harding; Joshua Collison; Matthews Skiltling (Mr. Wm. Matthews father); William Matthews (boy); Mr. Dodds; Mr. McKenzie; Henry Edenshaw; Rueben Thompson; the next four are as yet not known; then, Kathleen Matthews (Mr. Wm Matthews mother); Mrs. Chief Weah, with white scarf - she was Chief Weah's first wife, they say. Mr. Dodds and Mr. McKenzie are white men, both were H.B.C. factors at Masset at one time. The canon in front of the lodge came from Sitka, and was brought down to Masset by the Haida's in a canoe. It is now in front of the old Red Cross Outpost hospital in Masset, just lying any-which-way on the ground, to Mr. Matthews disgust. He would like to reclaim it...and I would surely go along with that. By the way the boy in the picture William Matthews is of course Chief Matthews of today.

There were four slaves in Chief Weah's house when he was a boy, and he thought very highly of one of them. He has his typewriter all set up now, and is going to write of his memories, fill in all those village names on a map for me, together with the names of the tribes who owned them. But it is seeing these pictures that really creates the interest - and I am most grateful to you for giving me that fine picture to give to him of this historic lodge. There was another picture which was also identified as Chief Weah's lodge, although quite a different building. When I showed it to Mr. Matthews, he said it was the first lodge that Chief Weah had, before he had the "monster" lodge built.

There is a picture of Albert Edward Edenshaw around, and Mrs. Kelly (his granddaughter) says she will locate it for me to have a copy made. The monument is outside her house, although the much photographed Edenshaw bear has gone. When I asked who erected the monument, Godfrey Kelly told me that he understood that it was erected by ~~his~~ ^{the} tribe to honor the old Chief Edenshaw and was to be his tombstone; however it was too heavy to move to the cemetery, so a smaller one was put down there, and this big one had to be left at the house. Would you feel that this is the right explanation...it sounds very reasonable to me, but I know that the origin of this monument has been the cause of a great deal of speculation.

I understand that the village of Yan was a large one, and that it was wiped out by Small-pox about 1852 - could you verify this, I wonder?

Once again, many thanks for that picture, Mr. Duff.

Very truly yours,

Kathleen E. Dalzell

(Mrs. Albert Dalzell)