

Annual Report 1960

TOTEM-POLE RESTORATION PROGRAMME

The totem-pole carving programme in Thunderbird Park was continued to the end of the calendar year under the direction of this office. The regular Kwakiutl carvers, Mungo Martin and Henry Hunt, were employed for all of this period.

The 60-foot totem-pole commissioned last year by the Provincial Council of the Boy Scouts Association was completed in February and sent to Ottawa, where it now stands in front of the new national headquarters building. Before the start of the tourist season, most of the exhibits in Thunderbird Park were treated with preservative and repainted. Some, however, were not painted, as it was felt that their appearance would be improved by further weathering.

The main project of the summer was the carving of an additional copy of the most elaborate of the three poles from Kitwancool. It is intended to erect this in the park in place of the large Bella Coola house frontal pole, which is an old original pole and should be preserved indoors. At the request of the Pacific National Exhibition the two carvers and the almost-completed Kitwancool pole were sent to Vancouver for the period of the exhibition, August 20th to September 5th, and proved to be a most popular attraction.

Another project was the preparation of the components for a new Thunderbird Park arch. The carvings on the old arch are not very authentic in style, and it does not satisfy the constant demand of photographers for a large, colourful, and authentic Thunderbird. Henry Hunt completed a Thunderbird with a 10-foot wing-span for the top of the arch. The cross-piece which bears the name of the park was also completed, and we wish to acknowledge the assistance of the Parks Branch staff at the Langford workshop in carving the name on it. It is intended to use a pair of Comox Grizzly Bear posts carved some years ago as the uprights of the arch.

As a start on the furnishings of the Kwakiutl house in the park, the carvers made a large feast dish in the form of a whale. Other smaller projects included the carving of four masks and two paddles for the Museum collection. Also, Mungo Martin completed five more water-colour paintings of creatures from Kwakiutl mythology.

On August 20th the Kwakiutl house was made available to Mr. George Clutesi, and he arranged for the performance of an impressive programme of Nootka Indian dances. The event was recorded on tape and colour slides were taken.

By the end of the calendar year all of the funds allocated for the programme had been expended, and it was necessary to lay the carvers off work.

Annual Report 1961

THUNDERBIRD PARK

The totem-pole carving programme in Thunderbird Park was continued through the year, under the direction of the anthropological office. The main project completed by the carvers, Mungo Martin and Henry Hunt, was a pair of 15-foot posts to be incorporated into the entrance portal of Rebecca Spit Park. In addition, a number of minor projects were completed, and the carvers' activities continued to be an outstanding attraction for visiting photographers and scholars.

Annual Report 1962

REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM, 1962

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THUNDERBIRD PARK

The death of Chief Mungo Martin in August, after ten years as chief carver of the totem-pole restoration programme, was a sad blow, for his knowledge and talents can never be replaced. The programme will continue with Henry Hunt as chief carver.

Carving was started in April, and three projects were completed during the year. An additional copy of a 21-foot Kitwancool Frog pole was made and will be held available for loans when requested. A large plaque representing the Thunderbird and Whale was made for display in the new Travel Bureau office in Vancouver. A copy was made of one of the two large Kitwancool poles collected during the summer, to be sent back and erected in that village. In addition, arrangements were completed to carve a 65-foot totem-pole as a gift from Canada to the City of Buenos Aires.

Several improvements were made to the exhibits in the park. A new Thunderbird Park arch using more authentic carvings was constructed to replace the old one. A replica of one of the large Kitwancool poles was erected to replace an old Bella Coola entrance pole, which was moved to storage. New labels were placed on all exhibits, and three new benches provided by the Parks Branch were installed, preparatory to landscaping and planting of native shrubs, which is now in progress.

Annual Report 1963

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

THUNDERBIRD PARK

The totem-pole carving programme continued through the year with a staff of two Kwakiutl carvers, Henry Hunt and Eugene (Tony) Hunt. The major project was the carving on contract of a 65-foot Kwakiutl pole to be presented to the City of Buenos Aires by the Canadian Ambassador to Argentina and a group of Canadian businessmen. This pole was completed and shipped off in October. In June the City of Prince Rupert offered the Museum three old totem-poles—two Haida and one Nass River Tsimshian—which had been copied and declared surplus. Through the co-operation of the Royal Canadian Navy, these were brought to Victoria and stored in the Indian house in Thunderbird Park. In October a start was made on a copy of the 50-foot Nass River pole.

In addition to the large poles, the carvers produced a number of smaller carvings, to be used as gifts by Government departments. Some of these small sculptures by Henry Hunt have been retained for the Museum collection, as examples of his present art style. The 21-foot Kitwancool Frog pole, carved last year, was loaned to the Canadian Government Exhibition Commission for use in a trade fair in Philadelphia in November. Until that time it was displayed in front of the office of the Travel Bureau. Components of the old Thunderbird Park arch were given to H.M.C.S. "Naden" on indefinite loan, and now decorate the entrance to the wardroom. Landscaping work in Thunderbird Park was continued with the planting of cedar-trees and native shrubs in March.

Annual Report 1964

THUNDERBIRD PARK

Totem-pole carvers Henry Hunt and Eugene (Tony) Hunt worked throughout the year on two large poles and a number of smaller projects. They completed a copy of the 50-foot Nass River pole obtained from the City of Prince Rupert last year and made considerable progress on a copy of a 55-foot pole acquired by the curator from Kitwancool in 1962. Arrangements are being made to place these two large and excellent Tsimshian carvings on permanent exhibit on the new campus of the University of Victoria. The carvers also made several model totems as official gifts and for the Museum collection. In September, at the Peace Arch ceremony, an original sculpture by Henry Hunt was given to Prime Minister Pearson and one by Tony Hunt was given to President Johnson.

In June, thanks once more to the Royal Canadian Navy, three more old Haida poles, donated by the City of Prince Rupert, were brought to Victoria. These were stored, with others obtained last year, in the Indian house in Thunderbird Park.

A long-held ambition was realized in October when the carving programme was temporarily expanded to include canoe-making. David Frank, a well-known craftsman from Ahousat, was brought to Victoria for two months to demonstrate the construction of an authentic Nootka canoe. He was assisted by Paul Sam, of the same village. The type constructed was a two-man sea otter hunting canoe (the log provided being unsuitable for a larger type). The project proved to be a very popular public attraction. A photographic record of its progress was obtained by the Photographic Branch.

Annual Report 1965

THUNDERBIRD PARK

The carving programme in Thunderbird Park has been carried on by Henry Hunt and Eugene (Tony) Hunt as usual with but a few interruptions occasioned by sickness. Except for a few accessories which are to be added later, the two poles destined for erection on the campus of the University of Victoria were completed and delivered in June. These are a copy of a 50-foot Nass River pole obtained from the City of Prince Rupert and a replica of a 55-foot pole acquired from Kitwancool in 1962.

Work was then started on a replica of the 40-foot Haida pole, known as the Weeping Women of Tanu, and this reached about the half-way mark by the end of the year.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA

Besides these larger projects the carvers were called upon to produce several smaller poles, some for the Museum collection and some for official gifts. Among the latter was an Indian-style box by Tony Hunt used at an international conference of travel agents at Hong Kong.

Several poles and canoes were moved from the Indian house to the new workshop at 1450 Government Street, where they were cleaned, repaired, and stored.

Annual Report 1966

THUNDERBIRD PARK

Carving of a replica of a 40-foot Haida pole, Weeping Woman of Tanu, which was commenced in 1965, was not completed until midsummer because of a number of other commitments. Work on this pole was also slowed while Mr. Tony Hunt spent several weeks repairing a number of canoes and totems being readied for display.

In late summer a contract was received to carve a 60-foot pole and a “welcome figure” for the Indians of Canada Pavilion in Expo 67 in Montreal. Logs for this purpose were generously donated by MacMillan Bloedel Limited and by British Columbia Forest Products, and a third carver, Mr. Simon Charlie, of Duncan, was engaged to assist in the project.

A number of poles which were temporarily stored at Thunderbird Park were moved to the Yates Street quarters for cleaning and repairs.

Annual Report 1967

THUNDERBIRD PARK

A major part of the time of Mr. Henry Hunt and Mr. Tony Hunt has been devoted to preparing materials for use in the replica of a Kwakiutl house erected on the exhibit floor of the new Museum Building. This included adzing of boards, the carving of house posts, and assistance in the actual construction. In November, work was started on producing a totem pole for J. Alford Limited, Timber Importers, of London, England.

Mr. Tony Hunt was loaned to the 'Ksan project at Hazelton for a short time to instruct craftsmen in wood-carving; later he and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hunt and other members of the family took part in ceremonies at the official dedication of the project at Hazelton.

Annual Report 1970

THUNDERBIRD PARK had its most active year. Tony Hunt nearly completed the frontal painting for the Kwakiutl House inside the Museum. Henry Hunt carved a speaker's figure to accompany the house. Several masks and other paraphernalia were carved for the Heritage Court Presents lecture and for the Mungo Martin potlatch. The apprentice carvers finished the weeping woman of Tanoo pole. Mr. Bell completed a replica of a shaman's grave figure and two smaller carvings; Mr. Wilson worked on a replica of a shark mortuary from Skedans. Mr. Matilpi carved two masks and two feast bowls for eventual use in the potlatch programme designed by the Education Division.

The most significant work produced by the Thunderbird Park carvers was the Mungo Martin memorial pole. Carved from a 32-foot cedar, this pole honouring the late Mungo Martin is without question the finest pole yet produced by the father-and-son team of Henry and Tony Hunt. It was erected at Alert Bay on September 18.

Annual Report 1971

Thunderbird Park continues to provide a valuable service to both the Ethnology Division and Education Services, as well as to other Government departments and the native people of the Province. Chief Carver Henry Hunt has completed two large houseposts for the Kwakiutl house which will be the central attraction of the forthcoming ethnological display. Assistant Carver Tony Hunt completed a Chief's Seat and the painted housefront for the house. Tony Hunt's painted housefront also served as a backdrop for *The Legacy*.

The two apprentices have continued to show progress in their mastery of wood carving under the tutelage of the Hunts. Ron Wilson, a Haida in his second year of training, has carved an eagle, and repainted a totem pole for the outside display at Thunderbird Park, as well as carving a beaver totem pole for the city of Prince Rupert. Ron Hamilton, a Nootkan completing his first year of apprenticeship, continues to work on copying three fine pieces from the west coast village of Friendly Cove. Tony Hunt, Ron Wilson, and Ron Hamilton carved a 12-foot totem pole for the Provincial Secretary's Department. All four carvers have assisted in teaching for both Ethnology and Education Services, as well as manufacturing a number of material-culture items to serve as teaching-aids for Education Services. Tony Hunt and Ron Hamilton represented the Ethnology Division at a double-pole raising at Masset in September. The poles were carved by Lawrence Bell, a former apprentice carver at Thunderbird Park.

Annual Report 1972

The Thunderbird Park carving project continued with the main effort directed to the completion of a Kwakiutl Indian house which will be placed in the Museum exhibit building. Carving was directed by the senior carver, Henry Hunt. Ron Hamilton entered his second year as an apprentice carver. Oscar Matilpi and David Gladstone were each employed for six weeks. Tony Hunt resigned from his position as carver in order to pursue his carving interests independently. The Museum staff wish him well and are pleased to have been associated with him and to have seen his talents develop over the 10 years he was employed by the Museum.

Annual Report 1973

As was the case last year, the main effort of the Thunderbird Park carving programme was directed to finishing the Kwakiutl Indian house, a focal point in the proposed exhibit. The end of the year saw the erection of the permanent framework for the house, and work on the walls and roof is progressing rapidly. Work at the park was directed by Chief Carver Henry Hunt, who was aided by Assistant Carver Ron Hamilton and apprentice Frank Puglas. Richard Hunt was employed for two months to assist in completing the house.

Annual Report 1974

The major task undertaken by the Thunderbird Park carving program was the completion of the Kwakiutl house mentioned earlier. After more than 20 years of service, Chief Carver Henry Hunt resigned to carve independently. His contribution to the development of the Museum during his employment has been invaluable and the staff as a whole join in wishing him well in his new venture. Ron Hamilton who was apprenticed to Henry during the past three years also left to return to his home in Alberni. Richard Hunt, Frank Puglas, and Francis Williams continue the carving program.

Annual Report 1975

The Division continues to be responsible for the operation of the Thunderbird Park carving program. It was a great relief to all concerned when in the fall of 1975 a new carver's workshop was completed. The workshop now provides adequate facilities for carving smaller objects as well as massive totem poles. Externally, the workshop represents a southern Haida house and it was intended this way so that yet another coastal Indian architectural style could be shown. This building provides the Museum visitor with an opportunity to compare Haida Indian architecture with that of the Kwakiutl, because the house of the late Kwakiutl chief Mungo Martin stands beside it in Thunderbird Park.

Annual Report 1976

Several significant carvings were produced by the Thunderbird Park carving program during the year and more than 1,500 square feet of cedar boards were adzed for the anthropology exhibits.

Annual Report 1977

A significant collection of masks, rattles, and other carvings was created in the Thunderbird Park carving program. Most important were two massive memorial carvings to be erected in the spring in Alert Bay.

Annual Report 1979

Thunderbird Park: During 1979, the carvers at Thunderbird Park completed a 16-foot totem pole which was sent to Middlesborough, England. Richard Hunt started work on another 30-foot totem pole. Both carvers manufactured new masks for the collection of masks for use at potlatches and also several pieces for the Education and Extension Division of the British Columbia Provincial Museum. Kwakiutl carver Bruce Alfred spent a two-month apprenticeship with the carvers.

Annual Report 1981

Late in the year construction finally began on the new carver's workshop to replace the original destroyed in a sudden fire in the summer of 1980. Hopefully the carvers will move into their new premises, constructed in the form of a traditional Haida house, before summer of 1982. Because the carvers, Richard Hunt and Tim Paul, had no workspace in which they could carve poles, they spent three months in Vancouver carving a pole outside the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation which in time will be erected on the Corporation grounds. During the late summer the totem poles in Thunderbird Park were repainted, considerably enhancing the look of the park.