

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

**Guide to Collection**

**Old Witch Pole Installation and Dedication  
State Office Building, Juneau, 1977**

PCA 23

54 photoprints : b&w, col.

Revised: 4/22/03 Gladi Kulp  
Revised: 5/2012 Jacki Swearingen

**HISTORICAL NOTE**

These photographs record the installation and dedication of the Old Witch Pole in the eighth-floor grand court of the State Office Building in Juneau. The totem is believed to be 100 years old and was originally standing in the old Haida village of Sukkwan.

The totem was purchased by Dr. Robert Simpson of Juneau and later became the property of the City of Juneau and was placed beside the Juneau Memorial Library. When the State Museum was given the totem, a decision was made to give it needed restoration, a project which took a year to complete. The installation of the totem in the State Office Building was completed on March 12, 1977 with dedication ceremonies taking place on April 29, 1977. Views 1-4 were taken by Rick Kiefer and the rest of the views were taken by Larry Stevens. Views 16-46 are black and white; the others are in color.

The carver was Dwight Wallace, a Haida Indian [Andrea Bell, 4/21/03]

## INVENTORY

- 1-4. [The totem resting on the lobby floor of the State Office Building during restoration.]
5. [Full length view of totem after installation.]
- 6-24. [Close-up views of the figures on the totem pole.]
- 25-30. [Rigging the totem pole prior to putting it in place on the wall.]
- 30b. [Group portrait of the crew that raised the pole. Front row, 1. to r.: Ed Way, Harvey Hildre, Oscar Olson, Ferrel Campbell and Dick Engen. Second row, 1. to r.: Dan Monroe, [unknown], Rollin Peters and Gary Boaz. Top row, 1. to r.: George Arway, George Parker, Don Bowthorpe, Erling Olson and Alan Munro.]
- 31-46. [Raising totem pole and installing it on the wall of the lobby.]
47. [Alfred Widmark, Belle Simpson, Lt. Gov. Lowell Thomas and William Overstreet, seated, at dedication ceremony.]
48. [Walter Williams, master of ceremonies, Lt. Gov. Thomas and Belle Simpson at podium as Mrs. Simpson is presented with framed photograph of the totem pole. William Overstreet, seated, left.]
49. [Belle Simpson at podium, addressing the audience; Walter Williams in ceremonial costume on left.]
50. [Mrs. Simpson holding photograph of totem pole; Walter Williams behind her.]
51. [Lt. Gov. Thomas and Walter Williams at Podium.]
- 52-53. [Walter Williams on podium.]
54. Black and white contact sheets of prints similar to views 16-46.