

Alaska State Library
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Haida Canoe Ceremony, Juneau, Alaska, Photograph Collection, 1977

PCA 135

127 images, b&w
(5 contact images of negative strips)

PROCESSING: The images are not numbered (Feb. 2005)

Historical Note

On June 28, 1977 Sealaska Corp. organized a symbolic ceremony in preparation for the dedication of the corporation's new \$6 million office building. A canoe, hand-carved from red cedar by Haida Natives, Clarence Peele, Sr., Clarence Peele, Jr. and Warren Peele, was an 18-foot replica of the 65-foot canoes used at one time by the Pacific Northwest Indians to trade and visit between tribes.

The canoe was accepted by Sealaska President John Borbridge Jr. as a symbol of the Tlingit and Haida "unity and people and purpose." The ceremony was attended by over 600 local residents and Alaskan Native people from as far away as Seattle.

The canoe is on permanent display in the Sealaska building. Robin Shepard is the photographer. [From: *Southeast Alaska Empire*, Wed. June 29, 1977]

Scope and Content

The images show ceremonial dances, ceremonial clothing, hats, masks, images of the canoe being paddled to the dock at Juneau, the crowds, the canoe with close up views of the prow.