

# Two Of Famed 'Ksan Carvers To Make Totem Pole In Park

Two of the famed 'Ksan Carvers are coming to Penticton July 21 to 31 to show you how a totem pole is made.

"They will be bringing their own eight foot cedar log and will be working in Gyro Park in a roped-off area with seating space for anyone who

wishes to watch. This is a special project to commemorate our Centennial," said Mrs. Ted Chapman, administrator of the Okanagan Summer School of the Arts.

The project is being sponsored by OSSA with grants received from the B.C. Cultural Fund

and the Koerner Foundation.

The 'Ksan carvers come from the village of 'Ksan, which means Skeena in the regional Indian tongue. It is claimed by experts that no better work has ever been done in the field of Northwest Coast Indian Art than is done by 'Ksan carvers.

The carvers work largely in wood, but the two men coming to Penticton "do excellent hand-engraving, understand jewelry-making techniques, make wood cuts and silk screen designs."

'Ksan is an authentic Gitksan Indian Village, complete in every detail and similar to one that stood on the site when the first explorers and traders came to the Hazelton area. However, construction of this village, at the junction of the Skeena and Bulkley Rivers began in 1968.

## FOUR COMMUNAL HOUSES

Four communal houses and a carving house opened to visitors in 1969 with further development including additional totem poles, mortuary poles, canoes and other native implements planned for coming years.

'Ksan Indian Village, a joint undertaking of the 'Ksan Association and the Governments of Canada and British Columbia through the Agricultural and Rural Development Act, is believed to be unique in North America.

The four communal houses — The Frog House of the Distant Past, the Wolf House of the Grandfathers, the Fireweed House of Treasurers, and the Today House of Arts — and the Carving House of All Times are decorated with house paintings, carved interior poles, and painted scenes in the classical West Coast Indian style.

In the Today House of the Arts and in the Carving House of All Times, Indian craftsmen may be seen putting their skills to profitable use producing a wide range of high quality native arts and crafts.

These products together with other products of Gitksan and Carrier artisans, are offered for sale to visitors.

The Fireweed House of Treasurers is the storing place and display location for the valuable tribal regalia of many Gitksan chiefs.

Life as the Gitksan people lived after the first traders came is displayed in The Wolf House of the Grandfathers where the trader's goods — muskets, iron pots, blankets, knives, and other paraphernalia — are laid out as if in preparation for a feast.

Visitors can see in the Frog House of the Distant Past how the Gitksan utilized feathers, bones, skins, and furs of animals and birds, stones, and bark and other plant and tree products to exist at a high subsistence level without benefit of the techniques and technology available in Europe and eastern North America of the 18th century.



THE ART OF WOOD CARVING is thousands of years old. Examples have been found in Egypt which were made about 5,000 years

ago. Above one of the famed 'Ksan carvers works on totem-pole.

# Women

SONNI BONE, Women's Editor

Thursday, July 8, 1971

THE PENTICTON HERALD

5