

Yakutat offers wealth of writing subjects

by **Bertrand J. Adams Sr.**
for the Tundra Times

YAKUTAT — Even though I might have a smidgen of Swedish in me, I am a Tlingit Indian from the core. Even though I now live in Yakutat, I have roots that come from other parts of Southeast Alaska as well, particularly from Sitka and Wrangell.

Ut Kah neek

Informing and Reporting

OPINION

I was born in Sitka because that's where my mother met my father while they were attending Sheldon Jackson Boarding School.

After they graduated they were married; when I was six months old my father drowned in a hunting accident. About a year later, my mother moved back to her home town of Yakutat.

She married my stepfather, and Yakutat has been my home since.

I have two Tlingit names. The first one was given to me by my grandmother on my father's side of the family. She named me *Kadushan*, after her father, John Kadashan, who was the chief of a *Kiksadi* group from Wrangell.

My other name is *Nuats'keek*; it was given to me by my step-grandmother from my mother's side of the family.

I use these names in my writings and art work. *Kadushan* is used in my fiction while *Nuats'keek* is the pen name in my essays.

My formal education was received in Yakutat; my high school years were split between Holland High School in Holland, Mich., and Mount Edgecumbe High School, a boarding school established by the federal government for Alaska Natives near Sitka.

My undergraduate work was obtained from Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka and later at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

I am a self-taught artist and specialize in oils and watercolors. I learned from an old Tlingit Indian friend at an early age who was a self-taught artist himself.

My short stories have been published in the *Alaska Native Magazine* and the *Horizons Alaska Magazine*.

One story and an essay is presently being considered for publication in the *New Alaskan*.

The *Alaska Native Magazine* has used my watercolors to illustrate all my stories and the *New Alaskan* is also considering using my art work.

My stories are all color. I take a slice of life from the lifestyle, culture, history and tradition of the Tlingit people of my community and attempt to develop a plot which will keep the interest of the reader.

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jective for my writing, however, particularly about the culture, history and tradition of the Tlingit people of my community. I attempt to develop a plot which will keep the interest of the reader.

To inform and entertain is the objective for my writing, however, particularly about the culture, history and tradition of my people, the Tlingit Indians of Yakutat.

I am a commercial fisherman by trade but work on a short story nearly every day and am presently work-

ing on two novels.

Once in a while, I will write an essay which attempts to develop a theme around a Native issue that rables me. This is done to promptly get something off my chest in an attempt to promote certain individuals (mostly our leaders) into action from their inaction.

Needless to say, there is a wealth of information and things to write about in Yakutat. However, I intend to expand my interest eventually to all parts of this great state of Alaska.