

Tlingit Tradition Bearers meet at Sitka park

For three days this spring, the Southeast Alaska Native Tradition Bearers meet at the Sitka National Historical Park to talk with one another about their concerns for the preservation of the Tlingit culture.

The Traditional Bearers are elders representing various Native communities in Southeast Alaska. They were joined at their meeting by Richard Stitt, executive vice president of Sealaska Corporation.

The creation of a Native historical archive, and the creation of a Native historical pub-

lishing program, were ideas that the meeting considered. The elderly spokespersons recorded their discussions of Native culture, such as medical practices, subsistence patterns, educational programs, clan emblems, hide tanning processes, and climatic influences on Indian behavior.

The Sealaska Shareholder, a newsletter published by the Sealaska Corporation, reports that the following people attended the conference: William Grady, Sitka; Nora Dauenhauer, Anchorage; Eva and George Davis, Hoonah; Forest DeWitt, Sr., Ketchikan; Vesta Dominicks, Sitka; Austin and Lillian Hammond, Haines; Andrew Hope III,

Sitka; Dick Hotch, Klukwan; Eli and Daisy Phillips, Haines; George James, Angoon; Vesta Johnson, Ketchikan; Charlie Joseph, Sitka; Ellen Land, Sitka; Cyrus and Naja Peck, Angoon; William Nelson, Juneau; Richard Stitt, Sr., Juneau; and Walter

Williams, Juneau.

The meetings each day began with an invocation and a prayer in memory of deceased Tradition Bearers Harry Bremner, Yakutat; Sam Johnson, Angoon; David Kadashan, Hoonah, and Harry Marvin, Hoonah.