

A Historical Event---

First Totem Pole to Be Erected at Kake in 50 Yrs.

"A historical event will take place for the people of Kake, Alaska around the first part of March," reports Gordon Jackson, Executive Director for the Southeast Alaska Community Action Program.

"This is when the first totem pole in over fifty years will be erected amid festivities of song, dance and cheer."

A potlatch has been scheduled prior to, during and following the raising ceremony. Hundreds of visitors are expected from all communities in southeast Alaska to witness and take part in the event.

During the 1920's, the totem poles which stood proudly representing the peoples' culture and history, were ordered to be

burned by the missionaries because of their religious beliefs that the people were worshipping pagan gods.

Jackson commented, "The arrival of the totem pole could possibly mark the beginning of a rebirth of the dormant culture which was once destroyed."

Because of the significance of this occasion, the Southeast

Alaska Community Action Program plans to film a documentary on the arrival and ceremonies which take place and also depict the history of the totem.

"If the film is good and well researched, it will forever be a source of renewed pride and a storehouse of culture, especially for the people of Kake," stated Jackson.