

Angoon commemorates bombing

The Kootznoowoo Heritage Foundation of Angoon, Alaska has launched plans for the 100th Anniversary Commemoration this October of the bombardment and burning of Angoon.

Cyril George, Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Directors, said the bombardment and burning of Angoon by combined military forces of the United States government on Oct. 26, 1882, "is both a very sad and a very significant event in our history. We want this commemoration to be a memorial to our ancestors who suffered and the children who died as a result of the attack."

George said the commemoration,

scheduled for October 24-26, in Angoon, "will also serve as a tribute to our which survived the destruction of our village and is strong today."

George said the recently formed heritage foundation is undertaking a major commemoration project, which will be the first phase of the foundation's long range plans to restore much of Angoon's historical and cultural art, artifacts and tribal structures.

Plans for the commemoration include the following:

- * Having totem poles carved by Master Tlingit Carver, Nathan Jackson, bearing the crests of Angoon clans.

- * Restoring Angoon's 14 tribal houses.

- * Reconstructing a traditional community house.

- * Having a history of the bombardment written from the viewpoint of the people of Angoon and illustrated by Angoon Jo Ann George.

- * Developing a documentary film of the story of the bombardment to be aired nationally.

- * Developing an educational film about the bombardment, with supporting instructional materials, for use in Alaska schools.

- * Having the United States Navy name a vessel in honor of Angoon.

- * Having the Secretary of the Navy officially acknowledge the unjustified and brutal attack on Angoon and send a letter of apology to the people of Angoon.

George said the foundation has hired Linn Forrest Architects of Juneau to conduct an architectural survey of the Angoon tribal houses and develop an historical report for

reconstruction of the community house. "As soon as we have cost estimates for these projects, we plan to begin a state and national fund-raising effort. We will be seeking funding from federal and state sources, as well as contributions from national foundations and corporations."

George said the foundation "is grateful for the support it has already received" from Sen. Richard Eliason and his staff, Rep. Ernie Haugen and the Alaska Congressional delegation in Washington. Senators Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens and Rep. Don Young, all have written in support of grant applications submitted by the foundation.

The Alaska legislators initiated passage of a citation joining the Alaska Legislature "in the somber commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the bombardment, burning and looting of the village of Angoon by U.S. military forces."

George said the people of Angoon feel it is important to have the attack on its village acknowledged as a terrible wrong against the Tlingit In-

dian people. The story of the destruction of our village is a very painful one to the people of Angoon; yet few people outside our own culture know about it or understand the significance of it," he said.