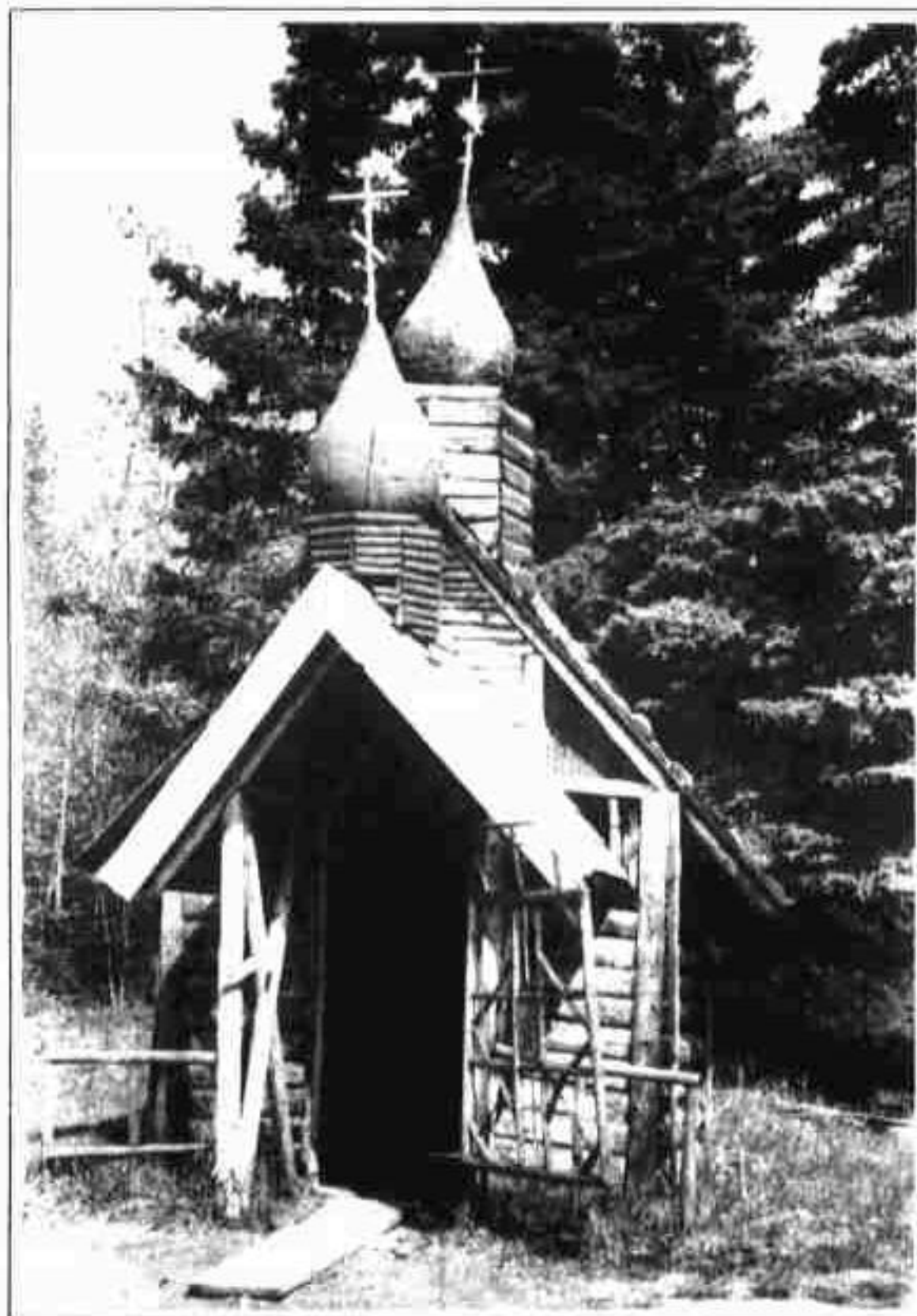




photos by Chris Cushman

## Blessing Eklutna's village theme park



Bishop Gregory of Sitka and all Alaska was in Eklutna May 12 to offer a Russian Orthodox Church ceremonial blessing of the Eklutna Village Theme Park. The last chief of the village after which the community was named, Eklutna Alex, died in 1953 at the age of 87, leaving care of St. Nicholas Church to his son Mike (Maxim) Alex. Above, from left, Father Seraphim Rohlman, Bishop Gregory, Father Peter Bourdukofsky and Father Simeon Oskolkoff depart the new Eklutna culture building. Also participating in the ceremony was Father Nicholas Harris, dean of St. Innocent Orthodox Cathedral in Anchorage. Unable to attend was Father Joseph Kreta, chancellor of the diocese, who was instrumental in helping to promote the development of the theme park. At right, a shrine at Eklutna; and left, the procession from St. Nicholas Church. Divine liturgy services are conducted every Sunday at 10 a.m. Father Oskolkoff, pastor of St. Nicholas Church, is also pastor of St. Michael's Russian Orthodox Church in Cordova.