

University Campus Totem Pole Raised

A 49-foot totem pole was erected on the University of Alaska campus Thursday.

Carved in 1963, the pole was put in storage until it could be situated on an archaeological site on the edge of the university campus, overlooking the Tanana Valley. The site is near University Avenue and College Road.

Archaeological work at the site has not been completed.

However a recently-formed Veterans' Club at the University proposed that the pole be erected before the Alaska centennial celebration opens in 1967.

The club asked Dr. William Wood, university president, for permission to erect the pole and he enthusiastically endorsed the project, noting that 1967 also will be the 50th anniversary of the university.

The pole was placed near the Bunnell Building.

Worthington Construction Company of Fairbanks donated a power auger to bore a hole for the pole. The Veterans' Club and the university maintenance staff will set the pole in place.

The pole is the work of

Amos Wallace, a Tlingit Indian from the Juneau area. Wallace was commissioned to carve the pole by the University Alumni Association.

The pole originally was a 54-foot length of yellow cedar and was donated to the University by the Alaska Lumber and Pulp Company of Sitka.

The totem work is based on a 22-inch model carved between 1850 and 1900 — the peak of the totem pole carving period in Alaska. It combines eight figures — four large and four small.

From top to bottom, the figures are: a raven, a frog, a giant cannibal, a frog, a mosquito, a frog, a bear and a wolf. They illustrate an old Indian legend about the origin of the mosquito.