

Charlie Joseph Sr., Tlingit Leader, 94

Charlie Joseph Sr. of Kaal.atk' died July 5 at Mount Edgecumbe Hospital at the age of 94.

He was born in Sitka Dec. 18, 1891, and spent most of his early childhood at Lituya Bay. He was fluent in Tlingit and learned the traditional songs, dances, legends and skills related to fishing, hunting and medicine.

Mr. Joseph was married to Annie Young of the Coho Clan (Raven) in a traditionally arranged marriage on April 16, 1916.

He inspired the book "Because We Cherish You: Sealaska Elders Speak to the Future." The book was transcribed from a Sealaska Elders

Conference held in 1980, and the title came from Mr. Joseph's speech on how the Tlingits always revered grandchildren and the importance of their strong belief in passing the culture on to them.

Survivors include his wife, Annie; children Jake Joseph of Seattle, Charlie Joseph Jr., Ethel Markinen, Willie Joseph, Loretta Ness, Esther James, Wilma Bacon, Richard Joseph and adopted daughter Alice Williams, all of Sitka.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers donations be made in his name to the Gajaa Heen Dancers, Box 2586, Sitka.