Yakutat: An Eagle Folds His Wings

By WILLIAM DIEBELS

A chapter in the Native history of Yakutat closed in quiet dignity when Olaf Abraham passed away at Mt. Edgecumbe hospital on April 25, 1972.

The venerable Tlingit leader

of the Eagle tribe had lent honor to his tribal nobility for more

to his tribal nobility for more than 100 years.

As his Rayen brothers prepared the Chief's final resting place on the Ankau River, the skies cleared to reveal the majesty of Mt. St. Flas.

No one was surprised. Tradition has it that the great mountain smiles as it welcomes a regal son to final peace.

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"Ya nan' eash" was born on Khantaak Island, 3 miles from the present village of Yakutat in 1871. The Russians had been driven out more than half century earlier and the young nobleman would be 19 before white men again visited the Yakutat Indians

- A land plentiful in resources permitted a rich cultural development. To honor his noble lopment. birth, a slave of similar age was appointed for "Ya nan' eash".

Growing up, they became like



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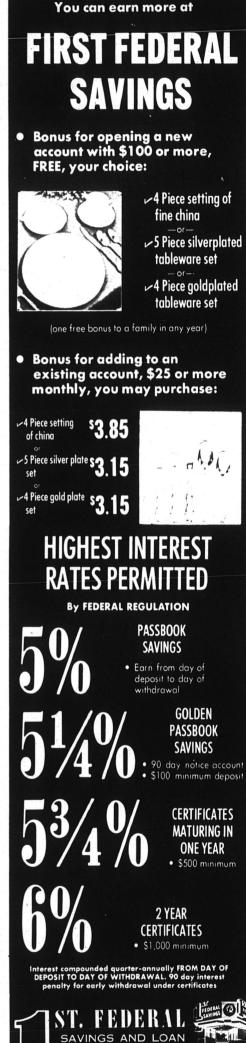
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new culture while never abandoning the traditions of his her-

The two eagles that soared above as the funeral precession made its way from Yakutat to the cemetery may have been coincidence . . I like to think





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