

Notes on Boas films of the

Fort Rupert Kwakiutl

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The following are notes taken during the showing of the films in museum office.

FILM NUMBER ONE

1930 was date given when pictures were taken

Games - people holding hands, walking around in a circle, falling flat upon the ground, then rising from ground.

Beating on a plank board lying on the ground. A bone game, taps board with a stick.

Women Dancing - they turn from one side to the other, waving hands from side to side. This is suggested to be a paddle dance.

HaMatsA Dances - Woman dances, runs up a plank, one side elevated, dressed in cedar bark or branches, woman dancing is supposed to be in form of a bird.
*Maybe Matem
P.M.*

Woman dancing - urges the people to sing, has a cedar branch head dress on her head.

Another dance,- woman dancing, slow rhythm, keeps hands forward, palms of hands upraised, steps up the dance step after awhile.

The HaMatsA Dance - man bends then rises, hands outstretched at side, first left hand, then right. He is decorated with cedar bark cloth, branches; the step is quickened, arms out from the side, kneels then rises.

FILM NUMBER TWO

Woodworking, Man with adze, adzing a flat plank, only small hand adze being used.

Drilling - man holds drill in hand, squeezes drill between hands, spits on hands then grips tool again, drills sideways also.

Making Cedar Bark - strips needles from the thin branches of cedar, preparing to make cedar bark rope. He is sitting on the ground as he is working.

Weaving mats,-

Weaving baskets - the woman photographed seems to have a deformed head (suggested by Gunther) She is also sheeding cedar bark, using a wooden beater, large stick propped in ground, stick fastened sideways to this.

Making a weave material with Spindle.- Whorl rolling it on knee

Ring Game - long stick and rings used. The idea evidently is to throw the ring and have the opponent catch it on his stick. At end of game, the two players rush around, one

The following notes were taken at Mr. Borden's house in Vancouver during the showing of the Boas films to Mungo Margin. His daughter, Mrs. Neal, assisted in interpreting information. Gathered Nov. 11, 1949.

It was said that these films were Dr. Curtis' films. Mungo believed that the films were taken not in 1930 as film suggests but about forty years ago, perhaps even more, but Mungo was not very certain of this.

Children games, Mexabuxla. This is called alaxwa, Mungo sang and beat the drum, seemed very happy when he saw the pic, John Hunt is in the movie, still living in Ft. Rupert, Spruce Martin, Mungo's brother in it also. Mungo appears to be happy as he sings while watching movie.

Chiefs with sticks, orating, Sam Hunt at right. He also is still living in Fort Rupert.

Dancing, three women swaying from side to side. Mungo accompanied the dance, singing and drumming. On left is Mrs. Mary Hunt, It is a canoe dance.

Next one Martin called a martim a winter dance, bird dance, Mary Hunt is dancing, has cedar branches on head. Mungo sings and drums, Woman on elevated plank is dancing down from it, goes up board again, then descends.

Dance TuWhit, woman slowly dances forward, has blanket on, Mungo sings as he watches this. Mrs. Tom Wallace is the dancer, boys in back are laughing, stretch out on ground as reel spins on and on.

Bob Wilson doing the Hamatsa dancing, Mungo sings with movie, watches Wilson carefully, beats the drum rapidly.

Another Hamatsa dance, dancer wears sweater, no blanket this time, is George William who is dancing this time, He is of Kingcombe Inlet people. Mungo sings very industrially as he watches William.

After the film was shown, Gunther and Malin spoke to Mungo and asked for further remarks on film he just watched.

Mungo suggests the films were over 40 years over, over 50 he said shortly afterwards. George Williams still is living in Kingcombe inlet. Most of the people in film one are still alive. Mrs. Geo. Hunt has passed away. After the films were made, the people in the film moved to Deer Island which is close by Ft. Rupert.

Patterns on button blankets - were made in Ft. Rupert. Blankets belong to Tom Wallace and John Hunt. Some of the designs were only decoration and didn't represent anything.

The game in the film represented all people as asleep. They are supposed to snore, they then pull themselves up to a sitting position, all then sing as they do this. Mungo remembered when these films were being taken at the fort.

appears to be chasing the other, possibly the loser (?)

Throwing sticks -

Children's games - boys throw ball into the air, then all jump and try to grab it. (it would seem to be something like our football or basketball).

Throwing stones - stick placed in ground, boys go to opposite end at some distance from stick, throw stones at stick to see who comes closest to it(?) perhaps?

Counting - girl with a stick counting numerous smaller sticks neatly laid out in row on the ground

Hitting a ring - man takes a number of sticks into his hand, tries while blindfolded to touch the small stick that has been pushed into the ground.

Kicking - a game sort of like picky-back, smaller boys on backs of larger boys, four or five teams present, they kick and push evidently to knock their opponents from the game.

Carrying and Hair pulling - two men, after letting a boy fall between their arms, carrying him to a group of boys standing 10 or 15 ft away, then boys pull his hair.

Pretending to sleep - film ended here.

FILM NUMBER THREE

Dancing - man beating a drum, four men dancing, dog runs into the picture but is driven away as one of dancers swings at it with a stick.

Shaman curing patient - woman holds cedar bark, is sitting on a mat in front of a stick driven into the ground. She sways hands from side to side, is kneeling as she sings and moves hands.

Summer Dance - large ermine headdress worn in this dance, woman is dancing, down falling out of the headdress as she bends her head. She flips head downward, then raises it slowly.

Fenton Dance

Salmon Dance - woman dancing, holds hands together, sways from one side, then to the other. One foot remains still, the other pivots in dance.

W. J. W.

Woman Carnibal Dance -

Bird Dance - intricate dance step noted, covered with cedar branches, (dancer), on body and head

I HAVE MADE A NOTE HERE THAT THIS FILM NUMBER THREE LEADS INTO FILM NUMBER ONE.

Dance which Mungo called martim dance, belonged to each individual family. In the legend, it was explained, when it was first started, there was a precious stone. A man had this on his head, then he'd be able to fly. When this dance is performed, one person only does it. The stone gave the person who wore it the power to fly. XwAt. The stone makes a screeching sound when it is worn. It is said that the stone came from a big mountain on the Ninkish Lake.

Film number two at Borden's

Man working with adze is George Hunt. He uses an elbow adze, then D shaped adze. Drilling - hand drill used by Geo Hunt.

Making cedar rope- Hunt doing this also. D^wIx is what Mungo calls is. He twists the rope to soften it.

Weaving - Mrs. Geo Hunt, died about 4 years ago, perhaps slight deformed head. She was a Brunden Harbor Indian.

Mrs. G. Hunt weaving baskets. It is called Katzik

Spinning, Mrs. Geo. Hunt, Hilkustoq, nettle string, Tzun Tzun Quim

Ring Game - Kimxo, rope and nettle, string around this, site of the play was where burial ground is now located. One boy chases the other.

Two men standing with large poles, suggestive of the "rival chiefs."
They dig the poles into the ground and their opponenets feed, then thr
ow the pole down upon ground, dances, M

Man sitting on the ground, another man holds copper in his hand,
hold this copper from side to side, puts it next to man on his side,
holds it, places it on ground.

Nootka Dance - four men and a drum, of previous film noted,

Shaman Curing patient - this also appears to be the same as number
three film. Shaman is a woman.

(1A)

Mrs. Geo. Hunt weaving basket,
AT+ A XAI It is called Katzik.

Springing - Mrs. Geo Hunt. HILKUSTOQ-
nelle spring, TSON TSON QUM.

Ring game - KIMXO. rope & melted
string around this.
Site of this play was
where burial ground is now.
One boy chases, tries to
hit other.

- throwing & hitting stick -

XK KIMWA - spring.

children's ball game - XK XOIYOU - throw.

- throwing stone - point - 2 or 3" diameter - manit basket
XK KIK 2 or point

Repet - 1111 - hold breath while she counts

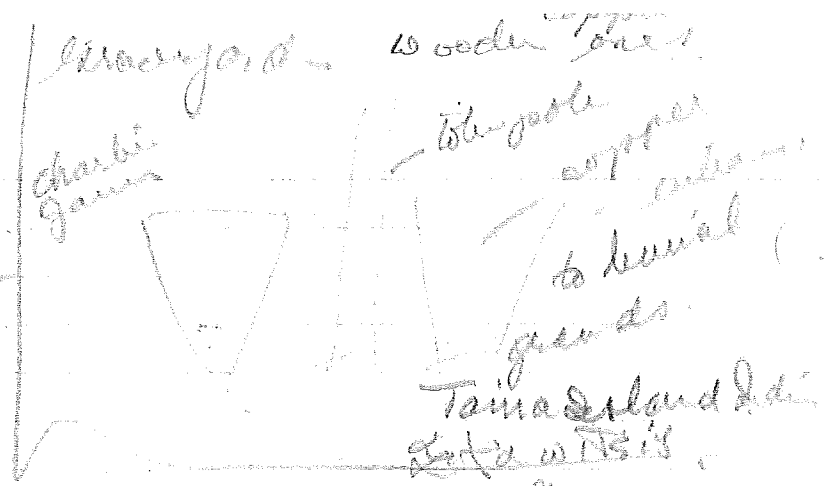
⊕ - Kawakawa - largest no. wis game

1111 - guessing - any number

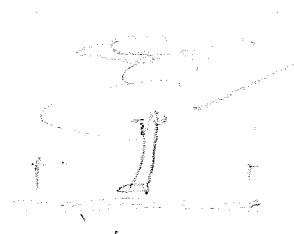
very heavy - manit's a -
down X hunt.

28

don't really pull it
sucking up & pulling
sayer just
on pulling



Reel 3.
Wet Dance ?



shel & poro
& his make
butter

Shaman - Mrs. Hunt = stick -

It always done
a medium man,

Indians still - neg. -

one woman
- more mid. one
at Abide Harbor & Wane.
Mediana =

Lemna dance - Kaxaxta

Xegia = better costume. Mrs. J. y. Max.

Salmon dance - Mrs. Bell M. Hall.
Kaxaxta

Paddle dance - Charlie Wilson - Mary Hunt
Kaxaxta

Onkwa // a w b o z