

in the place. Later the village was called Belltown, Gaud'ah'kan, Hoonah Town, Hooniah, Hoonyah, Huna, Kantukan and Koudekan. The Hoonah post office was established in 1901 and thus was responsible for giving the village its present name.<sup>1</sup>

As the Huna people began to settle here they built community houses out of logs. Over the years the number of houses increased to 20. The community houses were the center of all the social activities as well as being a home to the many families that occupied them. The Huna people were fond of display and show and in each community house they had dances, parties and potlatches to celebrate, births, deaths, the weather, good hunting and fishing and so on.

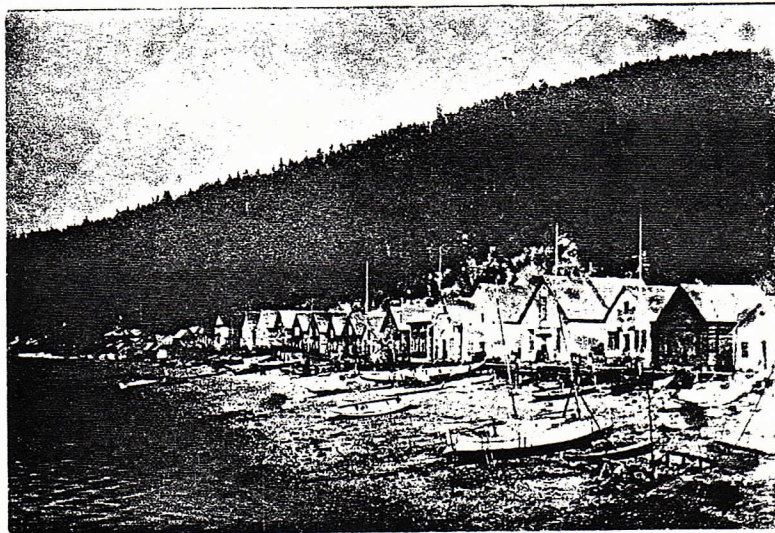
As the village grew and became more established it came to the attention of missionaries. Rev. S. Hall Young of Sitka, wrote in 1878:

"We next visited Kowdekan, the largest village of the Hoonya tribe. It is located on a beautiful deep bay on the North-East shore of Tchitchagoff Island. The population is six hundred and twenty five. They are a simple hearted, primitive people. The women are comparatively unpolluted and the children numerous, They have constant communication by canoe with Sitka and Fort Wrangell. We should make this one of our chain of mission stations among the Tlingit-speaking people."

And later in the same report he wrote:

"We found the Hoonahs about the most receptive of all the Alaskans; and this was the beginning of what has been one of the finest and largest of our Alaska missions."

The inevitable happened: the coming of the white man, and with him he brought his missions and mission schools.



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<sup>1</sup>Donald J. Orth, Dictionary of Alaska Place Names. U. S. Gov't. Printing Office, Washington 1967.