



David Williams
a fisherman

DAVID WILLIAMS

Tribe: Eagle (Ch'aak')
Clan: Chookaneidee
House: Bear (Xoots)
Emblem: Brown Bear
T'akdeintaan yadee or Yeil Kudeihittaan
yadee

David Williams, the fisherman, carpenter, and artist, was born in Douglas on May 9, 1904. He was a very active man during his lifetime, raising a fine family and contributing a lot to his people. He built the seine boat Urania II in Hoonah in 1928-29 and soon moved to Hoonah permanently. He seined as captain of the Urania II until 1969.

David was instrumental in building Hoonah's two ANB halls. After the first ANB hall burnt down in 1944, to bolster morale and start funding for a new hall, he sold Kool-Ade and other refreshments at town meetings held in the school.

Beginning his art study at a very young age under his uncle, Willie Marks, David was carving by the time he was 13 years old.

"His works have been shown around the world, including major pieces in the Smithsonian Institute, the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Indian Affairs, in Washington, D. C. In 1971 he was one of the 12 master Indian craftsmen of the United States, invited by the U.S. embassy to meet with Queen Elizabeth of England, and members of the British Royal family, and prominent international patrons of the arts. He has earned many major awards, is represented in most of the museums of Alaska and elsewhere, and several years ago was named "Master of Tlingit Art" by the Sitka chapter of the Alaska Native Brotherhood."

David Williams passed away March 12, 1973.



Bear