The Building of a Canoe

Carpenter Crew:
Danny Pablo
Jim Anderson

Canoe Carvers:
Jerry Jones
Joe Gobin

June 1988

Courtesy of the Tulalip Tribe
2001
The maiden voyage! Skippering the canoe on her first trip is a great honor, given to Bill Holm, who was the master carvers' teacher and former curator of the Burke Museum. (From bow to stern: Joe Gobin, Dean Fryberg, Glen Gobin, Roy Hatch, Leroy Fryberg, Tony Hatch, Richard Brown, Bill Holm)
After the top has been flattened, the center line on the bottom is created. (Jerry Jones and Joe Gobin)

The blessed canoe is put into the water for the first time. (Leroy Fryberg, Joe Gobin, Glen Gobin, Tony Hatch, Bill Holm, Jerry Jones)

The bow lines are put on with a baton. (Joe Gobin, Jerry Jones, Jim Anderson, Danny Pablo)
The bow section is blocked out.
(Jerry Jones)

The canoe is blessed. (Bernie Gobin, Frank Madison, Stan Jones, Neal Moses, Julie Moses, Terry Jones, Marya Moses, Jo Ann Jones)

The tail gets fitted to the canoe.

Tulalip elders, including Marya Moses, Jo Ann Jones, Terry Gobin and Molly Hatch, give the Blessing of Big Sister before the canoe goes into the water.
A week before the *Salmon Ceremony*, the canoe is moved to Tulalip Bay for its dedication and launch. (Bernie Gobin, Eddie Pablo, Richard Brown, Joe Gobin, Danny Pablo, Jerry Jones, Leroy Fryberg, Dale Jones; Stan Jones, below)

The tail section needs some repairing before it is installed on the canoe. (Jerry Jones)

The top of the tail isn’t tall enough, so canoe carver, Jerry Jones, laminates it to the proper dimensions.
A gutter (elbow) adze is used to shape the right side of the canoe. (Jerry Jones)

On the day of the steaming, before water was added, a rope is tied around the bow to prevent it from spreading too wide.

The bow of the canoe is finished except for the eaves and the rub rails.

The canoe will have a sail. The master carver Jerry Jones holds the mast.
Two coats of dogfish liver oil and red ochre paint are applied, but the paint doesn’t dry. The carver ends up using enamel paint. (Jim Anderson, Joe Gobin)

On the evening of a solar eclipse, while using steam and spreaders to stretch the canoe, the canoe split.

The first section of the canoe is thinned to the correct thickness.

The sides are prepared for the rub rail. In the background, the paddle carved especially to steer the canoe sits in the bow. (Joe Gobin, Jerry Jones)
1/4” wooden dowels and wood glue are used to connect the patch in the bow to the main body of the canoe.

“Butterflies” are installed with a 2-part epoxy to repair the crack on the right side of the canoe. The crack is sealed with Seki-flex 52.

The thorts are installed the old way, except the canoe carver uses copper wire instead of cedar bows.