-Each piece of wood

is different...

the sound, the feeling,

the hearing,

and the look of it.

I guess it would be like

turning a page

at a beginning of a story,

to shape out,

each shaving that falls.

There's a page.

There's a page.

I guess it's proof there

what your mind and heart can do.

-It came to signify

the Northwest coast.

And so if you wanted a memento,

that's what you wanted to have.

The business community

was very interested.

And when Standley came from

Denver, he had seen the pole.

It wasn't terribly far

from the shop on the waterfront.

-He was a fisherman.

He traveled a lot

from Canada to the States.

Of course, there was

no real visible border,

I guess, with our bands.

-A number

of Nuu-chah-nulth people

lived down

on the Duwamish flats.

There was the possibility

that the children

could go to school here.

There also were ways

that one could make money,

particularly picking hops.

Sam Williams found that the

Curiosity Shop was interested

in having somebody

carve totem poles.

-My grandfather was

one of the first to sell artwork

to the Old Curiosity Shop.

I mean, we have a long history with them.

-And he developed his own style,

which is very different

than the northern styles.

You can look at the noses,

the way brows --

There's certain

characteristics,

bulging eyes,

a certain way of making claws,

the positioning of the mouth

and the shape of it,

very large teeth often

that were flared out.

-He put shape on our teeth

because at the time,

we were the only ones

that rounded our teeth.

-It appealed to Standley.

Standley had several

of his poles in his yard

over in West Seattle,

and he stored them

along side of the wall

where the cars would come up

to go on the ferries.

Then he began to encourage

also making small poles.

-These are good examples

of Sam's work.

You see, he would call

this easy money.

So, you can see that

these are a little bit older,

but this would be a good example

of what he would make,

a bucket of these up

and sell them for 25 cents.

You can see the Williams style.

It's evolving here.

The frog is a good example,

the way they carve their feet.

-Through the poles

that were carved

by Sam Williams,

then by his children,

an old tradition was reinvented

in a new way,

and that tradition became

something in its own right.

-My dad was born

in December of 1933,

and about 1936 -- he was 3 --

when he started carving

with my grandfather,

at the Duwamish River,

where he sat and carved.

It changed in 1950 to 1960,

where my dad took my granddad's

work and added to it.

To me, it's like --

Watching him carving,

it was like he's cutting butter.

"Schwoo, schwoo, schwoo."

-It was just effortless

to see him

put a knife

through a piece of wood.

He created a genre of his own,

a style that became

unique to him.

Raymond was born lucky to be

born into a family of artists,

and he knew -- he knew

that his children would be okay

and would be able to provide for

themselves if they could carve.

So they carved.

-I remember talking to dad,

and he said,

"Every single generation

adds a little change

to the totem poles."

And he said, "We're definitely,

in this generation --

We've added a lot more detail."

I know there's 250 designs.

The stories behind them --

I know very little of them.

The last person that I'm completely aware that has

the histories and the stories

of our totem poles is John.

-John, like his older

brother Sam,

had a special ability

to take the craft

and the style of carving

just a little step further.

-John and Sam --

they're like Batman and Robin.

They pressured themselves

to keep the art alive,

to keep moving forward.

-To them, it just came --

It was like second nature

to them.

They could just sit there

and take a piece of wood --

doesn't matter

what it looks like --

and it just comes out amazing.

-He started

when he was 7 years old.

That was the tradition

in their family.

And by the time

he was 10 years old,

he was carving totem poles

and masks

and things of that sort.

-To see the things

he'd created --

I know everybody

in the family carves like it,

but to watch him carve

from the beginning

to what it would look like --

You know, he was talented.

-And I think

the closest person to dad,

because he was always there

with dad --

Doesn't matter

where he was going,

like, to the States or Canada

or where he was going.

John was always sure

to be there.

-John T. was very loved

by his family

and certainly loved

by those of us

that came to be his family.

-John was one of the people

that came in to the club regularly

when we were located

at 165 South Washington.

He had so much personality,

and he always had just

a wonderful aura about him.

-His smile, his personality,

the voice, how he walked.

He was the kind that --

He'd give you the last dollar

if he had it, you know?

I don't know.

It's just...

how little things people

take for granted about.

-After dad passed away,

then Sam, then Dave,

then Nathan,

my brother just fell.

-He would tell about

his father dying,

and I remember he'd cry.

He'd start getting really, um...

And then when his brother died,

yeah, there were some --

he would hit some hard times.

-When Sam and -- See, Sam and Dave are buried here in Canada.

And when he left Canada,

he did tell me

and a few other people --

he said, "I'm never stepping

foot back into Canada."

And he never did.

He never came back.

He never returned.

-I know that his --

the alcoholism

had really hit him hard.

But he just kept being

a survivor on the street.

And I would see him

when I'd walk downtown.

-We all saw the deterioration.

But, you know,

he never lost the smile.

He never lost

that friendly chuckle.

He never lost

the ability to laugh.

-I haven't seen him since 1989.

And I had reconnected

with Rick in 2006 about,

and we talked a lot about John

and how to find him.

It wasn't really clear

where he was.

-Mr. Williams, you see that symbol right there?

-Yeah.

-What does that mean?

-Walk.

-You see that symbol

right there?

-Don't walk.

-Next time, look up,

and you won't get stopped.

-Okay!

-You understand that?

-Yes!

-If I see you do that again...

-Don't bark at me!

-Listen to me.

-Free to go, Mr. Williams.

Thus ends my contact

with Mr. Williams,

one of our regular mental

transient Native Americans.

I'll be turning

the video camera off now.

-I know a big part

of John struggle's was,

there's very few of us

left in Seattle.

And he was missing a lot of us.

My mother actually sent

my brother Eric to Seattle.

She said, "Go get John.

He needs us now."

-My brother Rick and I

found him.

We were sitting in the market

and seen him

and said, "Hey, bro."

He didn't hear --

He didn't acknowledge me until

I got about this close to him.

Street life really hurt him.

He sounded like a child.

He was standing there

looking at us, Rick and I.

He goes, "Man, I haven't seen you two sit together

in over 15 years, man."

He was so happy

to see both of us.

[ Sea gull squawking ]

-Ah, that must have been

August 30th.

Eric and John and I were

at Victor Steinbrueck Park.

We call it Native Park, but...

nice day out.

He's telling me

he's losing his sight.

You know, he's saying

he's embarrassed by it

and could barely hear you.

I had to get this close to him

and had him take my hand

in sign language

to say, "I'll teach you how to carve the way we saw Grandpa."

To see that smile of his

and saying he wanted

to continue,

'cause if grandpa

can carve blind, he can.

"Okay, I'll go get my stuff."

-I made a dollar out

of my donation hat.

I said, "Hey, man,

I got a buck, man,"

handed him a dollar.

He said, "Hey, thanks

for looking out, brother."

-Walks up the street,

looks back.

"Two hours, I'll be back," and...

Oh, at that day and moment...

...I couldn't get it,

I couldn't see it.

He's just walking

across the street.

He was coming back to us.

4.7 seconds he had.

-Hey! Hey! Hey!

Put the knife down!

Put the knife down!

Put the knife down!

[ Gunshots ]

[ Police radio beeps ]

-Unit 33, shots fires,

Boren and Howell.

Subject wouldn't drop knife.

-Shot fired, Boren and Howell.

Unit 33.

-So, I decided I'd cross the street behind the police car,

and right as I stepped up

on the curb

is when the gun

started going off.

And about two car lengths

into the parking lot,

I stopped and turned, and John was staring right at me.

And I saw the blood

on his shirt.

-Three or four minutes

after John was shot,

you know,

it spread like wildfire.

Somebody came

from Boren and Howell

and told me they just murdered

my brother and...

I set my carving down and...

Then after that,

everything went upside down.

-I've been out and about

during the day.

I came in about 4:00.

Sat down, turned the TV on.

It said, "Breaking news."

The horror of it.

And all I could do was sit there glued to my chair.

I could not move.

-I was at my son's

soccer practice,

carving a totem pole in a park,

and somebody came up to me

and said,

"You better not do that

in Seattle.

You could get shot for it."

And I said, "Excuse me?"

-I was stunned,

stunned and dumbfounded,

and I just could not believe.

-Well, I found out

the day after, and I was just...

devastated.

I mean, I was --

I was in such shock, like,

I don't remember

phoning him.

I don't remember

phoning my my son

and telling him about it.

And...

-Yesterday, shortly

after 4:00 p.m.,

SPD patrol officer Ian Birk

confronted a person

armed with a knife

at the corner

of Boren Avenue and Howell,

resulting in the use

of deadly force.

[ Siren wailing ]

-You okay, bud?

-Yeah, I'm okay.

-I knew something

was really wrong.

I didn't know, you know,

why somebody was shooting

a gun off in broad daylight,

and I just wanted to go.

But it was pounding in my head

I needed to go back,

and so about

a block and a half away,

I finally turned around

and came back.

And at that point,

there was a police officer

at the other end of the block

taping off the street.

And I stopped and talked to her and told her.

-A lot of information

that was provided

yesterday

and throughout the day --

it just keeps ever-changing

as we talk to witnesses,

as we talk to officers

who were there.

-He didn't sit in the police car to talk to him, man.

He was in no shape for talking.

It would take me 25 minutes

to walk.

It would take him 50 minutes

to walk, 60 minutes to walk.

-Didn't introduce himself.

Just yelled at him, "Hey."

-Hey! Hey! Hey!

Put the knife down!

-It became pretty apparent

that day

and particularly

in the next few days to come

that things

were not quite adding up.

-I have to tell you

at this point

that I have a lot

more questions than answers.

I mean, I could go on

in a two-day span

of, minute by minute,

what I saw, and...

[ Exhales sharply ]

-Oh, it gathered momentum,

not only in Native country,

but in all areas.

-Everyone at that point

was reacting to this tragedy.

-Am I in danger?

I mean, like, lookit --

I'm an artist as well as him.

I did sit alongside with.

I do carving.

I'm nervous

about going back there again.

-This is just

kind of the tipping point

after there have been

so many other incidences

that were similar.

-Oh, there was incredible anger.

I mean, the anger the first couple months was evident.

You could touch it.

-It affected a lot of people, you know.

There's a police officer

that is supposed

to be sworn to protect us

that, you know, really gunned somebody down in the street

that was making no threat

to him whatsoever --

or anybody else,

for that matter.

-For me, it was as if...

When the gun went off,

there was something

inside of me that just

almost collapsed,

like there was...

It was almost as if I died

right along with him.

-There was a lot of anger

and a lot of protests

on the streets.

And Rick was calling for calm,

a calm response

that would honor his brother.

-Okay.

-Listening to people

angry, yelling at me.

-Homeless rights advocates,

Indian rights advocates,

the anti-police-brutality folks.

Whatever he did

trying to maintain the peace,

he got grief for it

and felt that pressure.

-I hear people saying that

I should say something, and...

my heart won't.

[ Breathes deeply ]

-Ian Burke had been

two years on the force --

or two years on the street.

He had completed his training.

And he thought that it was weird

that a Native American

would be walking down

the street with a knife

and a piece of wood.

It shocked me that it was not

ingrained in this police officer

that Native Americans

have been carving in Seattle

since before it was Seattle

and that totem poles,

and in particular this family,

are part of the fabric

of this city.

And I was shocked and angry that

that he thought this was weird.

-Even I carved in Seattle

when I'm walking

down the street, right?

I don't take a moment

to just relax.

To me, it's always carving, right?

To me, that's relaxing.

I mean, that is the one thing

my dad always said --

"If you're gonna fight,

you know, never use this.

"This is -- These are, you know,

your livelihood, right?

"Your knives, right? Your wood.

That's your livelihood.

Don't ever use that."

-The Williams boys

were magnificent carvers,

but they were also

very used to carving in public.

I would see them

walking down the street carving.

And I once asked them,

"Aren't you worried the police

will say something

or do something with your knives

open like that in public?"

And John said to me --

I remember it very clearly.

He says, "All the police

know who we are."

-I knew John T.

from when I worked patrol

as a young officer in the '80s.

And that's the other thing,

is that a lot of officers

knew who he was.

And I think most officers,

particularly senior officers,

knew that, you know,

there were times

that, you know,

he could be problematic,

but for the most part,

he just did his thing.

-So, the inquest

was a long process

involving the very difficult

testimony of eyewitnesses

and others who were involved.

And the jury

was not really instructed.

There were questions that are --

that the family wanted to ask

that weren't asked.

There were some legal standards

that we wanted to have applied,

but there were

no legal standards

provided to the inquest jury.

So, they were given

some questions to answer.

But what the validity

of those would be

and how they were judging them

and what legal standards

they were applying --

they got no direction on that.

-King County has really strange

and unique inquest rules

that are different from other

jurisdictions in the state.

And in the 40-year history

of this inquest process,

there had never been a finding

that the police

had done anything wrong

in a shooting or in a death.

And so the cards were stacked

against the family

getting any sort of answer

or justification

or feeling

that they were being heard

and that their loss

was being acknowledged.

So, when the jury

reached a decision

that was sort of half and half,

we saw that as a victory

because they were acknowledging

that there were questions

about what Ian Birk did

and there were questions

about whether he really

reasonably believed

that he was in fear.

And we were, of course,

skeptical that he was.

-So, Ted, only four jurors

said that they believed

that Williams

posed an imminent threat

of serious physical harm

at the time he fired his weapon,

only 50% of the jurors.

That is hardly a definitive

finding exonerating the officer.

-Well, what that goes to show --

four didn't know.

And, of course,

what we have is a situation

where they're being asked

to look at this in retrospect

with all of the information

that's available now

that was not available

at the time.

And I think the jurors

very clearly

were taking into account

the fact that Mr. Williams

was highly intoxicated that day.

-My brother was

deaf in his left ear,

could barely hear,

could barely see.

When did he have the time

to react?

-Prosecutors have to decide now

whether to charge

Ian Birk with a crime.

What do you say?

-I have no idea

if they have any interest

in that whatsoever.

I think under state law

it makes it very clear

that they have to overcome

a pretty serious burden,

basically show malice

on his part.

-Today, the county prosecutor,

Dan Satterberg,

decided not to bring criminal

charges against Ian Birk

for the shooting

of Mr. Williams.

I understand the frustration

and anger that the public feels.

They rightly want to know,

if Ian Birk is not held accountable for his actions,

can any officer

be held accountable?

The Firearms Review Board

has reconvened

and, based upon extensive review

of the evidence

and witness testimony,

they have concluded that

the shooting was not justified.

-In fact, what we have

unanimously concluded

is that John T. Williams

did not manifest,

did not complete,

the predicates

for the use of deadly force

by putting himself in a position

to imminently cause death

or serious bodily injury

to Officer Birk.

-From the family's perspective,

at some level,

it was like

he got away with murder.

And so, again,

Rick and the family

were in the position of,

"Well, what do we do

about this now?" Right?

"How do we handle a system

that doesn't hold

someone accountable this way?"

We understand

there are legal theories,

there's process and all that,

but at some level,

it felt very, um, uh...

empty.

-I don't remember him the way

he was as a kid till now.

I don't want that image

in my head

of his last moments anymore.

-There had been a lot of stories

about his brother in the press

that were really hard.

-You know, you'll see

some of the outrageous

things that my brother did,

and all they said was,

"The last week of his life."

-Rick was hurting in a bad way,

having to relive the shooting

of John over and over and over.

I knew that the best thing

for him

would be to get back to work,

to put a knife in his hands

and --

Just like his dad would say,

"Get to work, boy."

-The idea was propagated that,

"We're gonna carve a totem pole for John."

-I loved that idea.

I said, "Ahh."

My heart got filled full.

-I was really happy.

I was really --

Like, I was happy there's something gonna be there

for John because,

regardless of, you know,

what happened, like --

And I don't want it to be, like,

sort of a memory

of, like, the shooting.

I want it to be

a good memory of John, right?

'Cause that was John.

Like, he was a carver.

That's what he'd done

all his life.

-Dan Martin had arranged with Kellen Manke at Manke Lumber

to donate the tree.

So we drove down to Shelton

and met with some members

of the Squaxin Island Tribe.

That was their territory.

-I'm standing in the forest

picking the log

with Danny and I.

It's like

the tree called us and...

-And it was a big,

beautiful cedar.

And we we prayed around it.

And then the loggers went

to work and took the tree down.

-[ Chanting in native language ]

[ Rhythmic drumbeats ]

-The logs were loaded

on the truck

and the truck

was driven up to Seattle

and we just kind of caravanned

our way all the way up there.

-It was pretty amazing seeing

that huge piece of cedar

coming into the Seattle center.

-Set it down,

and to see everybody blessing

the tree at that moment and...

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

Pulling the bark back,

putting J.T. on it, and...

That's about

when the images started,

showing me how big the eagle

will be,

the master carver and the raven,

the look -- I saw it.

As the bark was coming off,

the more I took off,

the more I could see it

come to life.

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

It'll mean something.

And that's what we were after.

[ Heavy drumbeats ]

[ Pounding on wood ]

We started at March 15th

at the Seattle Center.

The key people that were here

in the beginning at carving --

Dennis Underwood,

Danny Martin, Paul Williams.

You know, we asked other carvers

to come by

'cause they knew my brother.

-We got this far with

what little tools we have.

Patience, a good sense of humor,

a good crew.

Biggest thing we ever did.

-I think,

as a totem pole carver,

a model totem pole carver,

I think you dream

of doing the real thing,

the real deal,

like playing a video game and wanting to really race a car.

It's different.

So you have to learn.

-We're looking at

where everybody got tired

at the end of the day.

After 10 hours, we got tired

and were like, "Whoa."

So we got to go over it again

and make sure it's even

before we get into this here,

the detail of the animals,

right?

-Well, it's a huge commitment

to stay at the pole and carve.

You know, there was a core

of people down there

that carved all the time.

-Sometimes it was 10, 12 hours,

14 hours a day

I'm down there carving on it.

-You want to do that up to here

and then start

taking this part out here

to get the shape of that whale...

-Ooh, good.

-...the way my granddad did it.

-Okay.

-Doing this

for your brother, man.

That's a lot of love.

-Of course.

Brothers forever.

I was always thinking about

what they did to my brother,

and my thoughts just started staying with this here

'cause I found it healing me

instead of having

all that anger in me.

And, you know,

by the end of the day, I said,

"Well, I did a great job today

in what I was after,

"and it's all coming to

the way I'd like to see it

in the tradition

of my dad and granddad."

-[ Chanting in native language ]

-Let's set the little one

that way as far as we can,

and let's just see what we got.

-Okay.

And end of the month,

we moved to Pier 57.

I'm home again.

This is my other carving spot.

I've been in this park

like 20 years.

I used to sit on the steps.

And I sat up there with my dad

and brothers,

and I sat in that --

where those benches are there.

-That's alright.

-That's when I found out

how heavy the log was.

-Originally, the log

that the pole was carved out of

weighed 12,500 pounds

when it was hoisted

onto the truck.

-From 12,5000,

it went down to...

-Boom!

-...4,5000 pounds.

-There you go.

-Okay. That'll work.

-Alright.

-Taking down to land it.

-When they set it down,

that literally

scrambled my marbles,

how much weight we took off

while pounding and shaping.

I feel it, after 12 hours a day

since March 15th till now.

Sore. [ Chuckles ]

-[ Chanting in native language ]

[ Chanting continues ]

-It's not over yet.

Got a long journey ahead of me.

[ Rattling ]

Okay, which one of you guys

were doing the rain dance?

-Not me. It was him.

-[ Laughs ]

-When they first moved it

down there,

I was worried about

leaving the attention

that we had generated

at the Seattle Center

and trying to redirect

down to the waterfront.

But the foot traffic and the

crowds who showed up --

because, you know,

the Seattle waterfront

during the spring and summer

is a beautiful place to be --

was amazing.

And I don't think we could

have been in a better place

than we were

down on the waterfront.

-It's really been a vehicle

for for positive interaction

with human beings

of all flavors.

[ Laughter ]

And Rick is wonderful

in bringing everybody

to the table like that.

-Rick was being the sort of

P.T. Barnum of the pole project,

and he was engaging the public

and telling John's story

and telling his family's story

and letting people carve

and doing little mini classes.

-You put a log in front of me,

I show you what my people

are about.

The students I have here --

and to see such young people

interested in learning

something about our heritage

of who we are as carvers,

you see what we're doing here --

I feel my grandparents.

my dad, my late brothers,

and it gives me the strength

to keep going forward.

-[ Chanting in native language ]

-Think of all the different ways

that Rick could have reacted

or the community

could have reacted.

You know, who knows what would

have been burned or destroyed.

But instead, this community

and the native community

in particular,

but also the wider community,

came together in a way

that they embraced healing.

-Good to meet you.

-Good to meet you.

-It was very helpful

for me also.

I was there when

they brought the log in

and actually had my son with me.

He went up there with me

quite a few times.

He actually showed me a little bit on how to carve

and just spending time with him.

-To see so many people

come tell me

what happened to their child...

-There was four of them,

four of them that were killed.

-If you asked --

If you have to be sleeping

east to west

and asked the older ones,

"Show me,"

the question was asked,

"What kind of warrior

can you be?

"You gonna be the fighter, the one that goes out and hurt,

"or be that warrior

that's inside

"that'll give you

all the strength you need

"to do even what we did here?

If you can't forgive them, how are you gonna forgive yourself?"

-Rick was constantly repeating

to me, "Stay strong."

And he told me that.

Every single time I saw him,

quite a few times,

he kept telling me that --

"Just stay strong. Stay strong."

-[Speaking indistinctly]

Okay?

Just be strong.

Don't let go.

Just have the great memories, you know?

Keep that alive,

and they'll be at peace, okay?

-Mm-hmm. Thank you.

-You bet.

I really don't want to see

anybody else go through this.

-[ Chanting in native language ]

[ Chanting continues ]

[ Rhythmic drumbeats ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

-There are, I think,

folks in the community

that would have preferred Rick

to be more radical,

to have been more outraged,

to have taken a different stand.

What he did was to try to build

bridges with the department,

to try to build understanding.

-Peace.

-[ Chuckles ]

-Right?

-Rick was a central

figure of peace

during this entire time.

And for me,

I was absolutely amazed by that

because I knew

how much he was hurting.

-After a while,

you quit hearing anger and hate.

You started to see the people

really admiring and thanking us

for taking such a terrible thing

and giving something

beautiful and positive back,

you know, that could have

went the other way.

But in my heart, we did

the right thing by staying calm.

He walked by.

I told Dennis,

"That guy's gonna join us."

Next day, Huey shows up.

-I didn't know Rick was.

I didn't actually know

anything behind it,

other than

what was in the paper.

And Rick asked me

if I would like to volunteer.

And I said,

"Well, what better project?

"It's changed something.

"It's something

that needed to be done.

He's doing a super thing

for his brother."

And I like working with wood.

And I enjoy seeing something

come together.

See every little grain

go where it's supposed to.

[ Speaking indistinctly ]

-Being a part

of that totem pole,

he sat there with a piece

of sandpaper in his hand

and sanded

that whole totem pole,

all 34 feet of it.

And we'd carve on it,

and he'd come back

and sand it again.

Hugh most accurately

represented the people

that always found a place

within the Williams family

that gave their lives meaning

and comfort and joy and purpose.

-I loved the family unity

that was there.

-Part of the message

of the project

and the people who gravitated

toward it was of hope.

-Want to play it?

-And the idea that,

even if you

were down on your luck

and hadn't carved in 20 years,

you could still do it

and you would be welcomed.

You could come and just be there

and be part of this community

of carvers and weavers

and share your thoughts,

if you knew John

or if you didn't know John.

You had a home there.

-[ Chanting native language ]

[ Rhythmic drumbeats ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

-When it started getting cold,

Victoria Schoenburg

of the Seattle Parks said,

"You know, you guys

want to wrap it up?"

And Rick said,

"No. I'm gonna stay here.

I'm gonna stay here

till we raise it."

even though he might have only

gotten one or two people

stopping by on a rainy day,

he was still down there.

-Ah, we saw

a lot of rain and snow.

You know,

the thing with mine is,

I want you to see

and feel the heartbeat

that we all put into it.

all the emotions.

I was constantly burning sage

to keep the energy pure

because when it stands,

that it'll be like a magnet.

You got something bothering you?

Go sit with it.

Bring a book

and sit down and read.

Be part of it, you know,

hoping it'll help heal.

Because that's the biggest thing

I wanted out of it,

is that the people will feel

what we all put into it.

-We a 3,000-mile limited warranty to every used car...

-The last week running around,

looking at what they need

to touch up,

a straight line here or a dot.

By then,

I was physically drained.

My son Thunderheart took over.

That was the first time

in my life I couldn't

cut straight line,

I guess 'cause the days

just went by so fast

and, you know, for five months, stressing on it, waiting for it.

And when the day came,

that all we had to do,

is sign it.

We're almost there.

Ditidaht, my tribe,

dated February 26, 2012,

and then a peace sign on it.

-I arrived here,

and Rick was telling me

what needed to be painted.

I'm like [gasps] "Okay."

So I went and grabbed Nancy.

-You guys need help painting?

-And she goes,

"Okay, I'm on it."

-She looks like

she knows what she's doing.

-Shut up.

[ Laughter ]

-I'm hoping for you on this.

Really proud for you.

-I can feel my brother, too.

-Really proud for you.

-Thank you. Appreciate it.

-We had we had all discussed

as a board and a community

to carry it traditionally

up to Seattle Center.

It's like a mile and a half

to carry this pole

that weighed --

by this point,

we were estimating

weighed about 3,500 pounds.

-I don't know. I don't know.

Everybody's...

-Oh, everybody's got

a different idea.

-Yeah.

-Everybody's got

a different idea.

We've heard

three of them already.

So, we're gonna try plan A,

and if that doesn't work,

we'll do plan B.

-And if that one doesn't work, we'll do something else.

-It's gonna get there.

-It's gonna get there today.

-[ Laughs ]

-It's gonna get there.

-And I said,

"Okay, just humor me.

"Can we put a sign-up sheet

somewhere

to make sure

that we have enough people?"

And they all just laughed at me

and said, "We're gonna have

enough people."

-It's good to see you.

-Oh, we had no idea.

That half hour before we were scheduled to carry it,

there might have been

50 people down there.

We were not gonna make it.

And in 20 minutes,

the waterfront

was covered with people.

-[ Chanting in native language ]

[ Rhythmic clapping ]

-It's just one of these things

in the Native community.

Everybody has this faith,

you know?

We plan in a general way,

and then we always trust

that the details

will work themselves out.

And they always do.

They just always do.

-[ Speaking native language ]

[ Rhythmic drumbeats ]

-[ Chanting in native language ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

-It's all about carrying the energy and carrying the spirit

and changing the way things are.

-We we're lucky enough to where

a dear friend and brother

of mine, Saaduuts Peele,

really walked us through

what was gonna happen that day.

-You guys want to carry it

even together,

and it looks like

a very good look.

I was eating breakfast

in the morning

'cause I didn't think

they really needed me.

And they called me and said, "Where are you?

We want you down here."

So I rushed down there.

And it ended up in a miracle,

you know, and being there --

And I was honored,

highly honored.

One, two, three.

Okay, straight forward!

-[ Chanting in native language ]

-And it came up off the ground

for the first time,

and people were just cheering

and drumming.

And as the totem pole

started walking slow...

-Hey, Rick, totem pole's

on the road, buddy.

-[ Laughs ] Finally!

-Yeah, brother.

-...to see it move up Western...

-Whoo!

Look at those faces

in the front.

-...how fast it was.

I quit counting

after 90 people there.

-It was hard work. It was --

It was tricky. It wasn't --

Obviously it's not

something you could rehearse.

-[ Chanting in native language ]

-They're moving faster

than I thought they would.

[ Rhythmic drumbeats ]

-[ Chanting in native language ]

[ Crowd cheering ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

-But it took 120 of us

carrying that pole

and guiding it through

the streets of Seattle

and another 100

or so people walking alongside

chanting and drumming

and singing with us.

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

-It was a healing

experience for us.

You know, we had

a lot of officers out that day

who were part

of the traffic control,

the motorcycle escorts,

all those type of things that,

you know, in their comments

to me that day and afterwards

that they were really proud

to have been down there

for that.

It really, you know, boosted my

confidence in the department of,

you know, where our officers

are with their hearts

and recognizing, you know,

the harm that had been done.

-Whoo!

-Yeah!

-[ Shouting in native language ]

It's cricking and cracking

while they're carrying it.

[ Drill whirring ]

-It wasn't without its bumps

in the road, but it --

I don't know.

It was a beautiful thing.

I'm really glad that we decided

not to just use a machine

to bring it up there

and pick it up with a crane.

-You guys ready.

-Yeah.

-One...

-Let's do this!

-...two, three!

Men with the blocks!

[ Rhythmic drumbeats ]

[ Crowd cheering ]

-To see

the fast-paced walking --

I had to get over to the side

'cause they were

really booking it.

-As far as I know, everybody

who was gonna be there

was walking with the pole.

And when we out came up

over the hill

and there was standing room only

in that whole section

of the center,

it was pretty amazing.

-[ Chanting in native language ]

[ Rhythmic drumbeats ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

-They get the totem to the center and set down and...

-Pause!

-Pause!

-I got in here!

I got to get in!

-When the pole arrived,

it was...

I -- It was an emotional experience.

[ Cheers and applause ]

-The unity

of the people were there,

that everybody...

[ Cheers and applause ]

-When it arrived, I just --

I had goose bumps.

Andrea came hurrying over

to the tent

and gave me this huge hug,

and we were both in tears

because it was

such an emotional thing.

-[ Sobbing ]

-It was, like...

an amazing amount of energy

was released on that day

for all of us.

-Everyone out.

-It really struck home to me

what a community effort

it really was, that we all played a part in it,

every one of us.

-We did this. We did this.

The community did this,

not I or I, this company, or I.

[ Indistinct shouting ]

That we all put our hearts

and mind into this project

to get it done.

-Coming up!

Pull!

[ Indistinct shouting ]

-It was a day of really deep

feeling and emotion

and sense of connection to the

community that made that happen.

[ Indistinct conversations ]

-[ Chanting in native language ]

-Listen up!

The pole is ready to stand!

[ Indistinct conversations ]

[ Cheers and applause ]

-From my past, as a childhood,

seeing, you know,

my granddad's totem's going up,

and all I saw was the history

of saying the same thing

and the Williams family

standing and...

Seeing the different tribes

come together here

to be part of this and...

The only thing I remember

in that moment

is giving a rebel yell,

and I saw my stick in the air.

Whoo!

[ Cheers and applause ]

And I guess that's another time I looked up.

"What do you think, kid?"

[ Cheers and applause ]

-Hey!

Ow-whoo!

-To see it going up, I was like,

"Wow, Rick, you did it."

-The people listened

to a thought.

That was about

the most powerful energy I felt.

This is going to speak louder

than I ever will.

-[ Chanting in native language ]

[ Rhythmic drumbeats ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats continue ]

[ Chanting and drumbeats stop ]

[ Cheers and applause ]

-Very good. Very good.