

'Tupilaks' On Display At University

An exhibit of 26 tupilaks--ivory charms or fetishes--will be on display at the University of Alaska Museum from December 19 to January 9.

The tupilaks were collected in Greenland by Don Whitsoe of Barter Island. They were loaned to the museum through the assistance of RT Schultz of Fairbanks.

Ludwig Rowinski, museum director, said tupilaks were originally used by Eskimos as evil charms. Today, he added, they are fashioned primarily as good luck charms and items to sell to tourists.

The artist carves them to represent creatures he has seen in his dreams or to represent figures other people have described from their dreams, Rowinski explained.

The exhibit will be open during the museum's regular hours, 1 to 5 p.m. daily. The museum will be closed Christmas Day but will remain open New Year's Day.