

'Silver Hand' Symbol Top Winner

The State of Alaska's distinctive "Silver Hand" symbol was a top winner in the recent Annual Awards Competition of the Alaska Press Club.

Utilized by the Economic Enterprise Division of the Department of Economic Development, as a means of official identification for genuine Native-made arts and artifacts, the emblem was first-place winner in the "Best Slogan or Insignia" category.

The symbol, a silver hand on a black background, is imprinted

on stickers for distribution to Native artists and to dealers handling Native arts and crafts.

Lynn Chambers, who directs the Native Identification Program, worked with the advertising agency for the Division of Economic Enterprise, Murray, Kraft & Rockey, Inc., of Anchorage, in the creation and development of the program, which is funded in part by the State Division of Tourism.

Pyllice Bradner, an M.K. & R. Art Director designed the award-winning symbol.

Walunga Is Guilty ...

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heard the voices of seven spirits, four good and three bad, giving him various commands.

In fact, Walunga's arguments that he was a shaman was a key issue in the case. The defense cited that belief as evidence of schizophrenia, especially since Walunga said he really heard the voices and was not hallucinating.

Van Hooimissen said Walunga's own description of shamanism showed it to be a practice primarily beneficial to the Yupik Eskimo.

He said he found no evidence, other than that offered by one of Walunga's own relatives, that the practice of shamanism would require a human sacrifice.

Rather, said the judge, Walunga appeared to be obsessed with a fear of the victim and was also sexually attracted to her.

As for a defense plea linking shamanism with schizophrenia, the judge said there was no evidence of any schizophrenia in the Walunga family, with the possible exception of the defendant.

Van Hooimissen also discounted Walunga's testimony that he inherited the powers of a shaman, on grounds the powers, if they in fact existed, were given through selection rather than inheritance.

"There is no evidence of insanity. I think Riley is in poor mental health and there may be psychotic overtones, but he knew what he was doing, has known what he was doing and is accountable for his act," the judge said.

"Shamanism had nothing to do with this," he said.

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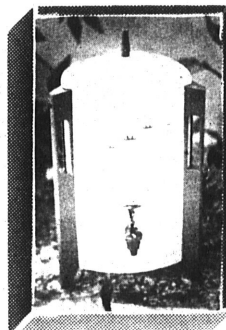
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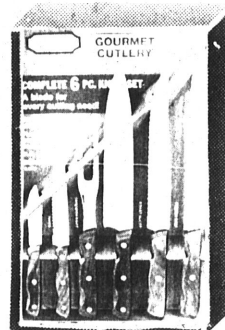
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