

From the State Blotter

In Bethel, a defense attorney told reporters the Bethel people were too prejudiced against Albanians for his client to have received a fair trial. "Most potential jurors simply admitted they knew the attorney's client was a bootlegger."

During a car chase in Kodiak, a man used his vehicle to ram the cars of a State Trooper and a Kodiak police officer. "Each officer responded by firing shots at the man, who was not hit. When apprehended, he said the officers were angry because he had 'out-driven them.'

In Palmer, during a trial on a marijuana grow operation, officers received a tip about ano-

ther sophisticated grow operation. Following up, the officers obtained a search warrant and during the search the grower volunteered his wife was a sitting juror on the marijuana trial. "The wife came to court the next morning and asked to be excused. The State did not oppose."

"It is apparently common practice in Homer for jurors to be handed 'fully informed juror' pamphlets outside the courthouse. For the uninitiated, the Fully Informed Juror Association advocates for jurors to have the power to judge the wisdom of the law, and thus encourages jurors to disregard the judge's instructions on the law.

In Kenai, two defendants were

convicted of driving while intoxicated. One defendant claimed the intoximeter result was wrong because he had been working with toxic glue. The other defendant claimed he had been painting with paint containing ethyl alcohol. "Fortunately, most Peninsula jurors are familiar with what it takes to get intoxicated."

"In a court trial, a man and his girlfriend were each convicted of possessing 19 cases of beer in the 'dry' village of Angoon. Since it was their first conviction, an administrative rule limited their penalty to a \$100 fine. A case of beer sells for \$ 60 in Angoon.

In Sitka, "the unusual ruling of the month came when (the judge) ruled a man who had a

Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) of 0.138% had not violated his felony probation by 'drinking to excess.' " Driving with a BAC of 0.10% or higher is illegal.

"Ever since an after-hours liquor joint was closed down, the Alcohol Beverage Control Board has been holding on to the furniture, equipment and booze. We've now commenced a forfeiture action so these items can be placed on the market. A great deal of interest has been shown in five video machines. Sorry, but the 30 bottles of distilled spirits and cases of beer must be destroyed. However, the 20 cartons of stale cigarettes will probably go cheap."