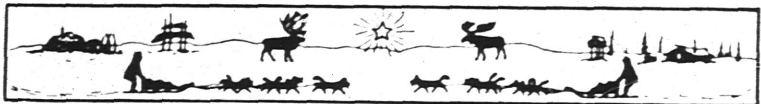


Tundra Times



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Editorial Comment—

Was Ancient Dignity of Shamanism Invaded?

We question the manner in which the subject of shamanism was treated during the recent trial of Alan Riley Walunga of St. Lawrence Island. Although undoubtedly this was a very complex trial, the fragmented and sensational manner in which shamanism was brought in, discussed by various witnesses, by the judge, and by both attorneys gave an incomplete picture of the way in which shamanism functioned in the life of an Eskimo community.

Shamanism played an important and profound role in the lifestyles of past generations of Alaska Native peoples. The shaman in the old days acted, in fact, as the psychiatrist for his people as well as being something of a psychologist for them. His powers were geared toward the wellbeing of those he ministered to. He was the man the people looked to for better and vital mental attitudes when periods of difficulties descended upon the village, such as prolonged unfavorable hunting conditions. The shaman was the man who instilled courage in times of deadly stress. He was looked upon as a necessary practitioner who thoroughly knew the mental faculties, traditions and customs of his people. He was constantly a steadying influence.

The shaman was also a colorful character who amazed and delighted his villagers by performing seemingly impossible tricks. He also commanded great respect among his people. No one doubted his abilities. He shielded his fellow villagers from fear of the unknown and the mysterious while wielding his own mysterious profession.

The highly regarded shaman lost his powers of influence as varying denominations of Christianity took hold in Alaska some 100 years ago. However, there are occasional indications that some still exist in various parts of Native Alaska.

Shamanism had its own brand of dignity much revered and looked upon with awe by Native people. It was not viewed as something evil as some people would make one think. It was a way of life that actually steadied the lifestyles of Alaska's villagers who have had to live under one of the world's most forbidding environments.

We are of the mind that involvement of shamanism in the recent Walunga trial should have been done under more dignified atmosphere. Perhaps there should have been some serious consultations with older and knowledgeable Native people on the once prestigious practice of shamanism before allowing it to become involved in the trial.

Safe Boating Week July 1-7

Governor William A. Egan presents the proclamation designating July 1-7 as Safe Boating Week in Alaska to Coast Guard Auxiliary District Commodore Donald L. Gebhart.

Also there to witness the signing is Coast Guard Commander Richard N. Westcott, Chief, Boating Safety Branch and Director of the

Auxiliary in Alaska, and Coast Guard Auxiliary Vice-Commodore David DeLong.

In the proclamation Governor Egan urges all boaters to give special attention to increasing water safety during this period and to avail themselves to safe boating instruction during the coming year.

Proposes Direct Grants to Indians—

Interior Department Says Fund Programs, Development

The Department of the Interior today proposed legislation which would enable all of its Indian programs to be granted to tribes for their administration and would channel an additional \$25 million in bloc grants for economic and tribal development.

Entitled the "Indian Tribal Government Grant Act," the legislation provides, first, a general granting authority which would permit the Secretary of the Interior and any tribe to enter into a grant arrangement for the tribe's performance of programs and activities now performed under existing appropriation authorizations by the Bureau of Indian Affairs staff.

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton said the legislation is designed to carry

out the policy of promoting Indian self-determination set forth by President Nixon in his July 1970 message to the Congress on Indian affairs.

"The bill aims at achieving the greatest possible degree of Indian control, consistent with trust responsibilities, in the planning and administration of federally funded programs serving Indian tribes," Secretary Morton said.

This proposal, the Secretary stressed, should be viewed as complementary to Departmental and other proposals aimed at achieving increased Indian self-determination by means of tribal takeovers of Federal programs or contractual arrangements.

Under the general grant authority in the bill, greater Indian control and involvement

would be permitted in the planning and administration of the local governmental and other programs now controlled by BIA employees who are responsible to Federal officials rather than to the elected tribal government.

The second major function of the bill is to make available \$25 million to tribes in part on an entitlement basis and in part based on an evaluation of their plans and needs. This part of the proposal stems from the President's Human Resources Message sent to the Congress on March 1, 1973, in which the President stated:

"I shall propose new legislation to foster Indian self-determination by developing an Interior Department program of bloc grants to federally recognized tribes as a replacement for

(Continued on page 6)

Letters from Here and There

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION
P.O. Box 237
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone (907) 842-3070
June 14, 1973

The Honorable William A. Egan
GOVERNOR OF ALASKA
Pouch A
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Sir:

The people of Bristol Bay are again faced with another disastrous fishing season. There are sound biological reasons for the continual decline.

Beluga take large numbers of small salmon that leave the spawning streams for the open sea where they mature. Beluga not only feed on these fingerlings, but eat returning mature salmon.

Large numbers of trout in the spawning streams eat salmon eggs and young salmon. The trout population is so large that we have no way of calculating the destructive effect they have on the spawn of returning salmon.

The False Pass fishery takes salmon that are migrating from their high seas maturing area. The salmon that go through False Pass during June are Bristol Bay salmon, Kuskokwim salmon, Kotzebue Sound salmon, and Yukon salmon. There is evidence that will confirm this. You have already received

studies that will prove that our salmon are caught in large numbers at False Pass.

Another factor that adds to the decline of our salmon is the international high seas fishery on mixed stock. This fishery has admittedly taken substantial numbers of Bristol Bay runs alone. Last year, 1972, the Japanese reported taking 31% of the Bristol Bay run.

We have been trying for years to get our State and Federal government to act positively in protecting our fishery. Nothing of any meaningful value has been done that will protect such a valuable resource. In our estimation the antipathetic, corrective measures taken to date border on negligence.

If our political leaders refuse to take this problem on with sincere determination, we in Bristol Bay will have to take measures that will awaken the public to the death of a fishery.

Rehabilitation Programs we support. We know the salmon need help in bringing their numbers back up to those early days. The salmon cannot continue to provide a good livelihood to Alaskans and outsiders with the pressures they must withstand. When the salmon runs do get healthy, 31% is taken by a foreign government.

Our fish run a predator gauntlet, a commercial nightmare of gear (both within state waters and on the high seas), and two unfriendly unsympathetic governments that virtually ignores the problems that are destroying a once healthy economic plus for the State of Alaska.

We must:

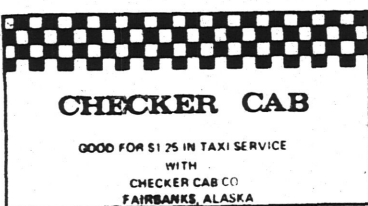
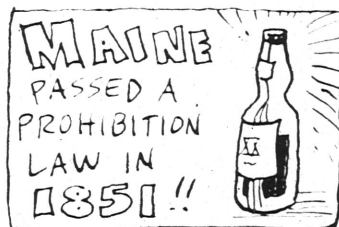
- 1) Institute predator control programs immediately.
- 2) Stop the False Pass Fishery immediately.
- 3) Stop the international high seas fishery on mixed stock immediately.
- 4) Enforce present Fish & Game regulations designed to help the fish.

If these steps are taken, we can begin to experience a revitalized salmon fishery. This fishery can continue to be an economic plus for Alaska, despite the lateness to the hour. Action must be taken or we will have the uncomfortable opportunity of witnessing the demise of a once bountiful State resource.

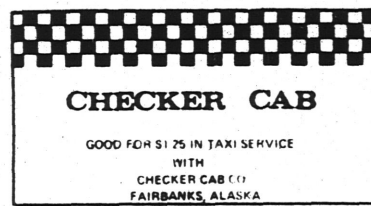
Sincerely yours,

BRISTOL BAY NATIVE CORPORATION

Nels A. Anderson, Jr.
Executive Director



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