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## State Museum receives grant

A pilot project in the conservation of Alaskan artifacts will be launched this fall by the Alaska State Museum.

The State Museum received a grant to carry out the nine-month project from the National Endowment for the Arts in cooperation with the Alaska State Council on the Arts.

Conservation in this sense entails stabilization, preservation and restoration of historically valuable objects that are being stored in museums, according to museum chief curator Alan Munro.

Mary Pat Wyatt, a conservator currently working with the Smithsonian Institution at Wash-

ington, D.C., will join the State Museum staff in September. She will concentrate on lending technical assistance to local museums throughout Alaska.

Munro said that although the State Museum is also in need of a conservator, the major thrust of Wyatt's services will be to the local museums. "Even though we are in need of it ourselves, our feeling is that we have a responsibility to determine exactly what is out there (in the local museums) and what things are in such a state that any further inattention will result in their deterioration beyond the point of being significant or meaningful anymore," said Munro.

Conservation is a very technical and difficult process of physically preserving objects, Munro pointed out. The process "runs through a large spectrum of simple stabilization of an artifact in its present condition all the way to extremely delicate restoration and preservation—as an example, repairing the flaking of an ivory artifact," he said.

Simple stabilization of artifacts will be the major project in the local museums.