

3 Eskimo Hunters Slain Near Kiana

The murder of three Eskimo caribou hunters, the worst in recent history of the native people, took place in a hunting camp near the village of Kiana a week ago.

Dead are Oscar Henry, 64, Freddy Jackson, Sr., 45, both of Kiana, and Clarence Arnold, 45, of Kotzebue. The latter is the uncle of the state legislator William L. (Willie) Hensley.

Latest word yesterday has it that the weapons of the three hunters, thought to be taken by the murderer, were recovered near the scene of the murder last Wednesday by the Alaska State Troopers.

The day before the murder

victims were found, Norman Johnson, 19, the son of Al Johnson of Anchorage, was spotted about 35 miles from the scene of the crime by Harold Lie, a bush flyer from Kotzebue. Young Johnson was frostbitten and was incoherent.

It was reported that Johnson and the three Eskimos were hunting and had put up a tent at the camp. It was said that a snowmobile drove up during the evening and shot into the tent.

During the shooting, Norman Johnson managed to get out of the tent and hid in the bushes near the camp.

Early sketchy reports had it

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Murder

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that the weapons of the three murder victims were taken by the murderer who then drove away.

The bodies of the three Eskimo victims are now in Anchorage where, an autopsy is being conducted. The weapons are to be given routine ballistics tests to try to find out if any of them was the murder weapon.