

# Trooper faces prison after alcohol violation

A former Alaska State Trooper faces five years in prison and a \$50,000 fine for his recent conviction on charges of bringing alcohol into St. Mary's a community which had voted to ban all alcohol.

Hugh Harrison, 40, was convicted by a Fairbanks jury after only three-and-one-half hours of deliberation, on the charge of importing alcohol and also of solicitation and tampering with evidence.

Harrison was convicted of bringing 127 cans of beer into St. Mary's where he lived and worked as a trooper, and also of asking a neighbor to remove the beer from his home after he realized he was being investigated.

He could receive a one-year prison term and \$5,000 fine on the tampering and solicitation charge.

During the two-day trial, Harrison's supervisor, Maj. Walter Gilmore of Anchorage told the jury it "was not necessarily dishonest" for a trooper to break the law, depending on his intent.

Former trooper Emory Bell of Bethel also testified that he doesn't agree with the law

which allowed the village to ban alcohol. Under Alaska's local option law, communities can control and prohibit the sale and importation of alcoholic beverages. St. Mary's voted

to go dry on Oct. 1, 1981.

Bell told the jury that, in the case of the local option liquor law, "I don't think it would cause local residents to lose respect for a trooper who breaks

the law.

Prosecutor Assistant District Attorney Michael White urged the jurors to "let troopers know they're no better than you are. Just because they are

troopers, they can't get away with this."

White told the jury that it was arrogant for Harrison to think it was alright for him to break the law.