

"I may not agree with a word you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it." — Voltaire

Tundra Times



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Justice Boney's Work Will Be Continued

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF LAW

September 20, 1972

Dear Editor:

I read the September 5th edition of your newspaper with great interest. The articles by Jacqueline Glasgow dealing with "Bush Justice" were extremely well done, and it is unfortunate that the man who made the most significant contributions to improving the criminal justice system in rural Alaska was the recent victim of a tragic accident.

Chief Justice Boney's intense concern with this problem motivated him to convene the "Bush Justice Conference" at Alyeska in 1970. Much of the work which is presently being conducted at the University of Alaska and elsewhere throughout the state was initiated on the basis of the recommendations which resulted from this conference. Justice Boney's opinion in *Alvarado v. State* which he wrote in 1971 also contributed significantly to bringing justice closer to the villages and smaller rural communities.

The Court System, the

Department of Public Safety and other state agencies have continued to work closely in implementing the recommendations which Justice Boney was instrumental in formulating. The Department of Public Safety in conjunction with the Courts has conducted a series of training courses for Village Police Officers for the past two years. These have coincided with training sessions for the village Magistrates, and one is currently in session in Bethel at the present time. The Public Defender has also added paralegal native assistants to his staff at Bethel, Anchorage and Fairbanks. We hope to continue and expand these programs in the future.

Although a great deal of work remains to be done, there has been a measure of significant progress and we are hopeful that all of the recommendations of the Bush Justice Conference can be implemented and that the good work which was begun by Justice Boney will be continued.

Sincerely,

John E. Havelock
Attorney General

Flotation Devices Were Not Used

As the result of a recent boating mishap in the vicinity of Resurrection Bay, one woman is dead and her husband is missing and presumed drowned.

When reviewing the facts surrounding the accident, it is hard to justify the results. The couple was in an 18-foot, outboard, wooden boat they borrowed from a friend. The weather at the estimated time of the accident was, visibility 10-15 miles, seas calm, winds calm, with over east skies.

First knowledge of the mishap came when the woman's body was found washed ashore. The authorities were notified and the boat, overturned, was found adrift.

Following the preliminary investigation, the woman was identified, the boat owner contacted and hence the search for the missing man.

As the reports continued to come in, it was learned that there were two personal flotation devices with the overturned boat and two more adrift.

This is where the outcome of this mishap is so tragic. No one will ever know if the wear-

ing of the life jackets would have positively saved their lives, but the odds would have been in their favor.

Granted, in these cold and treacherous Alaskan waters from the time you are forced into the water until the time you lose consciousness is only minutes.

But, with the aid of a PFD, life expectancy is better than four hours in 47° water. Give yourself every possible break.

Another thing to remember, as unpleasant as it is, is your family and friends. You have no doubt known of other cases where a person fell victim to these northern waters and was never recovered.

The family must then live for weeks or even months hoping and praying for recovery of something, anything, so they can be sure. But without the help of a personal flotation device, a body, in these cold waters, will sink.

In order to prevent deaths of this nature, the Coast Guard has regulations which state that there will be a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device readily accessible to every

JUST STRUCK BY THE SOCIETY OF MEDALISTS for its 86th issue, this fine art medal is a nearly 3-inch bronze tribute to the Chilkat Indians, members of the Tlingit tribe of Southeastern Alaska. A free illustrated brochure and

Society membership information are available by writing to Mrs. Mary Louise Cram, Executive Secretary, The Society of Medalists, 35 West Branch Road, Weston, Connecticut 06880.

Medal Singles Out Chilkat Indians— In Medal Just Struck by Society of Medalists

One of America's least known but most sophisticated Indian tribes is the subject of the 86th consecutive art medal just struck by The Society of Medalists. The nearly 3-inch high-relief bronze medal commemorates the Chilkat Indians, members of the Tlingit tribe of Southeastern Alaska.

With a culture that flourished between 1850 and 1900, the Chilkats were noted for being warlike and roamed as far south

as Vancouver Island for trade and slaves.

They became affluent through fur trading with the Russians, Europeans, and Indians in the interior of Alaska and lived in an area of abundance which allowed them the leisure to develop a highly sophisticated culture.

The medal is the work of John Edward Svenson, a sculptor who lives and works in Green Valley Lake, high in the

San Bernardino Mountains of Southern California.

He is the 86th American sculptor to have his design selected by The Society of Medalists since the nonprofit organization first began to issue fine art medals biannually in 1930.

The Society's bronze issues represent the largest and most diversified collection of medallie art available to the collector

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Letters from Here and There

Familiar Subject: This Writer Would Move the Capitol

CAPITOL MOVE PROPOSED

Let us move the capitol!!!

There may have been a time, once, when the capitol city was also the population center of our people. But over the course of the years that population center has steadily shifted westward. That shift shows every sign of continuing, according to census data, so that the present capitol site is too far away from the people as a whole. As a consequence, the present site is to the advantage of the residents of a small remote geographic area, instead of benefiting all citizens. True, this may provide a political balance preserving the rights of an otherwise forgotten minority, but we should not let this deter the majority.

Climate, too, should play a part in the capitol relocation. The present site is prone to insufferable summers, bitter winters and howling winds. Surely we can find a better place for our capitol city, but when we do, we will have to give greater attention to environmental and ecological factors than we have

done in the present capital.

Relocating the capitol will give us the opportunity to have an enriched cultural life, lowered crime rate, and better housing conditions than are possible in the capitol's present location, but these are not the main advantages of relocation.

The major benefits of moving the capitol have to do with the construction of the required new government buildings. This essential part of relocation aids the economy, both by making millions of those far-sighted entrepreneurs owning land in the new location, by spending millions of taxpayer dollars to enterprising capitalists owning companies that sell low-cost building materials, and by lowering the welfare rolls by providing high-paying construction jobs for all those with friends in the right places.

Now some will say that this is too costly a program, that we could spend our limited resources in a wiser manner since we already have an expensive government building complex in the present capitol. This is a short-sighted view, a historical fallacy, since we should always ignore past costs in making decisions about the future. Besides the present capitol city buildings will not go to waste: they can be turned into museums and travel agency offices. For, the relocation will make the old

capitol a new tourist mecca, aiding tourism by forcing the visitor to see two capitol cities, old and new, instead of one.

The politicians, though, will benefit most from this construction, and that is as it should be. We all know that politicians need some visible monument to point to after their years in office, and neither graft nor favoritism sits so well in the public eye as does the construction of yet another building paid for by the citizenry and named after an otherwise forgotten and obscure politician. These buildings are rewards for the politicians' years spent in public service, and the most important asset of the capitol move lies in the fact that so many more politicians will be able to have new public buildings named after them.

With these incalculable and invaluable benefits firmly in mind (and there are sure to be others as yet undreamed of) let us willingly prepare to pay for moving the capitol: from Washington, D.C., to Boulder, Colorado. The very name of the place will show our country's enemies the implacable nature of our determination.

Sincerely and cordially,

Joseph A. Sonneman
Juneau, Alaska