

PRESS RELEASE

Sheldon Jackson Museum

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KING ISLAND HUNTER'S VISOR FEATURED IN JUNE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION: #9; #9; CAROLYN YOUNG, 747-8981

As its Artifact of the Month for June, the Sheldon Jackson Museum will exhibit a visor once used by King Island hunters to shield their eyes from the sun's glare. The visor was collected by the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Jackson, Museum founder, in the early 1890s.

Display of this early carved wood visor coincides with a visit to the Museum by Charles Pullock, an Inupiaq Eskimo carver whose family is originally from King Island. One of the Museum's Native Artist Demonstrators for June, Pullock, who carves ivory and wood, will demonstrate afternoons from June 18 to 22 and from June 23 to 28. He will be available to answer any questions about Inupiat art and culture.

Despite the overcast skies with rain or snow that are common in the King Island area, the sun and its reflection off water or snow and ice were a serious problem for hunters. Throughout Alaska the indigenous people devised methods of protecting their eyes from the sun's glare. One of those methods was the visor.

Although some visors were elaborately decorated and had symbolic or ritualistic significance, this small visor was apparently utilitarian. It is painted a light black, possibly to help diminish reflection, and has as its only decoration a slight indentation or groove at the top and bottom edges. A strap of hide attached to either side held the visor in place above the eyes. The visor may be viewed at the Museum from June 1-30. Summer hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. General admission is \$4. Visitors 18 and younger, Friends of Sheldon Jackson Museum, and those with passes are admitted free of charge.

