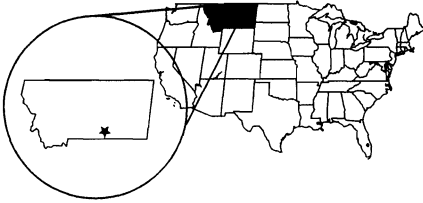


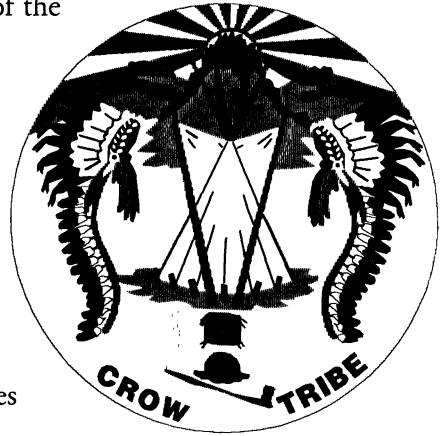
CROW



In their own language, the Crow tribe of southeastern Montana are *Absaroka*, the “bird people”. The name “Crow” came from a crude translation of the term (ENAT, 76-78). The flag of the Crow tribe is light blue with the tribal seal in the center. The seal

bears many symbols, starting at the bottom with the peace pipe traditionally offered as a first placating step in any significant petition of the Crow people—an offer not to be refused by mortals.

Above the pipe is the “Sacred Medicine Bundle” [see Cheyenne River Sioux]. This bundle contains sacred seeds of tobacco, the only significant crop of the Crow. These particular seeds are believed to be the original and supernatural blessing of the Crow that led them to their present home (Lloyd Old Coyote, *Crow Tribal Emblem*, undated pamphlet). Above is a “sweat lodge”, a place for purifying both mind and body—a practice frequently employed by the Crow before a major undertaking. The symmetrical tepee represents the values of a good home and the home of the Crow (ibid.).



Behind the tepee are three mountain ranges, the Wolf, Big Horn, and Pryor Mountains. The rays of the sun represent twelve of the original thirteen clans of the Crow. The thirteenth, the “Greasy Mouth” clan, commonly referred to as “the sun worshippers”, is represented by the sun itself (Frederick Turnsback, Director of Procurement, Crow Nation, letter dated 15 Nov. 1994).

On each side is a war bonnet, the one to left being larger. One represents the clan chiefs on the mother's side; the other the clan chiefs on the father's side. Both sets of chiefs lend guidance, inspiration, and protection to all tribal members.

The flag differs slightly from the flag reported in 1975 (FBUS, 257-258). The new flag has a heavy black border separating the seal from the field. The old seal had a single white star at its base, four lodge poles (which represented the four seasons and four winds in Lloyd Old Coyote's design), and the "Big Dipper" constellation (which symbolized the "carrier of messages"), all of which are omitted in the new seal. 🐾