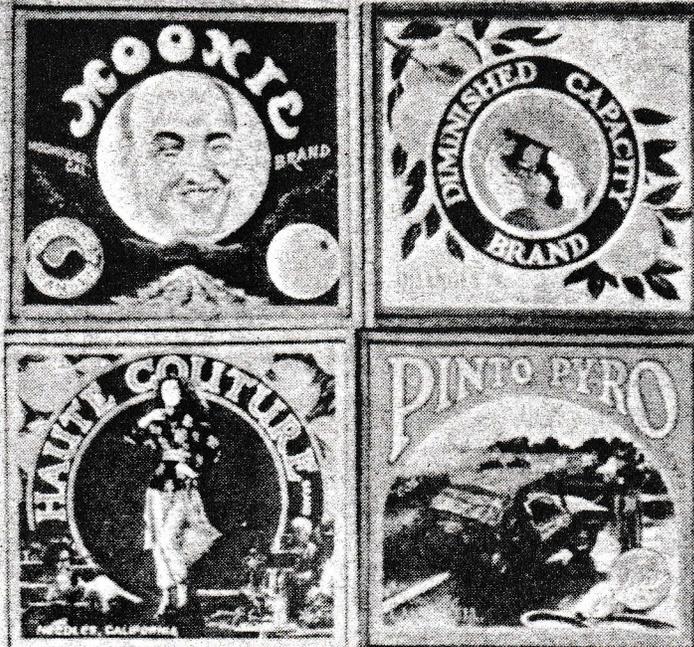


## Pick Of The Week



**H**a ha! Ho ho! He hee hee! It's "*Humor in Art*," and it's about time. Michael Kurcfeld, art critic for *New West* magazine, has culled the corners of California to bring together some 80 pieces by 44 artists. The humor exhibited is definitely Kurcfeld's own brand — droll, dry and, to my taste, delightful. It isn't the sort of stuff that leaves you rolling in the aisles, though. It's more a compilation of artists' witty or irreverent observations on the absurdity that surrounds us. Jeffrey Vallance displays a vitrine of Oscar Meyer memorabilia: the Weinie-whistles, Weinie-rings and Weinie-mobiles, even a business card that reads "Oscar Meyer, the World's Smallest Chef." This box of objects isn't funny in itself; the idea that anyone would collect and present them, the evidence of what must be history's most peculiar ad campaign, now *that's* funny. Then there is Clayton Bailey's "Big Foot Museum," a parody of the pseudo-scientific exhibits at natural history museums. A ceramic skeleton of a giant foot is displayed in a purple velvet case flanked by a seemingly serious fossil-tester and a Big Foot Dropping, with explanatory texts. Ben Sakoguchi's fruit box labels bear such unlikely titles as "Eat the Rich Brand," "World War III Brand," and "Leo's Art Mart Brand." (See above.) One of my favorites was Scott Grieger's blackboard bearing the red painted outline of America and labeled in chalk as "The United States of Anxiety." A true enough appellation, and a few grins can help us bear it. The show continues at LAICA through August 15.

In LAICA's entrance gallery, there is a handsome installation by **Gilbert Johnquist**. Cast-off parts of appliances, such as oven grills and garden tools, are tacked to the walls, apparently held in place by elegant, painted wood poles horizontally suspended between the walls. Continues through August 1.

At LAICA downtown is "The Great Confrontation" by **Douglas Hall**. An installation of conical dunce caps, painted in the colors and symbols of the United States and the Soviet Union, is exhibited in even rows while an audio tape drones a litany of the super-powers' desires to dominate each other and everybody else in the world. Not exactly subtle but still interesting. In keeping with the Great Capitalist Tradition, the hats are for sale at the bargain price of \$50 a pair — one American, one Soviet. Still more humor in art. Continues through August 9.

—Hunter Drohojowska