

Two-Headed Hair Seal Pup Discovered at Pt. Hope

A strange hunting oddity has come out of the village of Point Hope in the far northwestern corner of Alaska. A two-headed unborn hair seal pup was discovered in a seal caught by the village hunter Raymond Frankson.

Frankson caught the seal on January 24, 1972.

"This is very unusual in our

unwritten Eskimo history and not heard of even in the old tales. Maybe the persistent story about the ten-legged polar bear was true after all," observed Melvin Olanna of Shismaref.

Olanna is at Point Hope working with the village art upgrade program of the University

of Alaska.

Olanna said the seal pup is about a foot long or little less, white in color. It was found dead and it is being kept frozen.

In other hunting activities, Point Hope hunters are having better luck this year in getting polar bears. Eleven have been caught so far. In some years, only two have been caught.