

Whale hunter lost

One of the first instances in recent years where an Eskimo whaler has been lost occurred last week when Leo Kayutok, 45, from Wainwright, became separated from shore ice April 29.

According to reports a southern wind opened up a wide lead and Kayutok, clad only in tennis shoes and a parka, was unable to reach land.

A massive, six-day air search began immediately, but finally was called off late last Friday when no trace of Kayutok could be found.

It was the first unsuccessful rescue in three years in that area, ac-

cording to Department of Public Safety spokesmen in Barrow. A National Guard helicopter from Kotzebue, as well as a Twin Otter from Nome were dispatched by the Rescue Coordination Center in Anchorage for the search effort. Two Army Mohawk planes equipped with sensitive heatseeking equipment plus numerous private charters were called in for the search. Approximately 50 air hours were logged by all aircraft in a 4,000 square mile search area.

Wainwright search and rescue teams worked day and night covering the coast line and shore ice.