

Barrow News

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FAIRBANKS — Six bowhead whales were caught now by Barrow whalers. First one by Joash Ivik Tuklee, second one by Ben Itta, third one by Harry K. Brower, fourth by Alfred U. Leavitt, fifth by Arnold Brower and sixth by Simeon Patkutak.

According to Mr. Vincent Nageak, resident of Barrow who is now 72 years of age, said today that the ice along where hunters are now in, is nice and smooth and only one mile out from the shore to the lead.

Vincent said that the whalers would have caught more whales but some went under the ice. Vincent said the whale what Simeon caught was a big whale. Whalers stored all the muktuk and meat for the Nalukatuk festival.

That mean each time during Nalukatuk time from early in the morning, food varieties of any kind always been served by the people to the crowd who watched the Nalukatuk going. And around 6 p.m., the owners bring in the frozen muktuk and kuak, that's meat.

And after everything is hauled down, they let everyone sit down, even lower the blanket down to the ground. After the blessing, the canoe crews gave out some to the people, never miss no one. They always give out certain amount, asked them how many in a family. And whenever they find out how many there is a family, they give them that amount in pieces.

If there is ten in a family, you get ten pieces that was already cut up. What a meal the crowd always have.

After the muktuk and kuak, tea, coffee or Cool Aid always comes next, even cakes and fruits always there.

After everybody is filled they always raised the blanket again and this time, able-bodied men takes hold of the blanket and start tossing them till midnight sometime.

During that Nalukatuk time, everything is always free, no

charge.

Mr. Vincent Nageak and myself grew up together, hunt together, traveled together. He is a great hunter in his younger days. He's the person who always outrun the polar bears.

It's nice to seen an old friend again. Vincent said also that the bar in Barrow is not big enough to hold several people. He said they planning to extend the building as soon as possible.