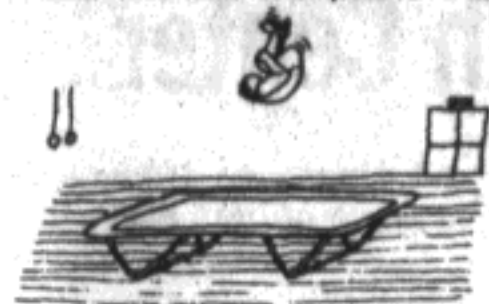


Inupiat culture is known all over the world

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The British, when exploring northern Alaska in the early 1800's, were impressed with the Native "blanket toss," Nalukatuq. They took the idea home and the trampoline was



"invented." The trampoline has been used in gymnastics and in 1955 it became part of the Pan American Games. In 1964, a World Championship in Trampoline was started.

The early whalers from New England were impressed with the Inupiat harpoon. The idea



of a movable head was taken back to New England. A blacksmith started making metal harpoons of the same design. The western world "invented" the toggle-headed harpoon in 1848. The Inupiat had been using their harpoon for centuries. These "new" harpoons became the standard for the

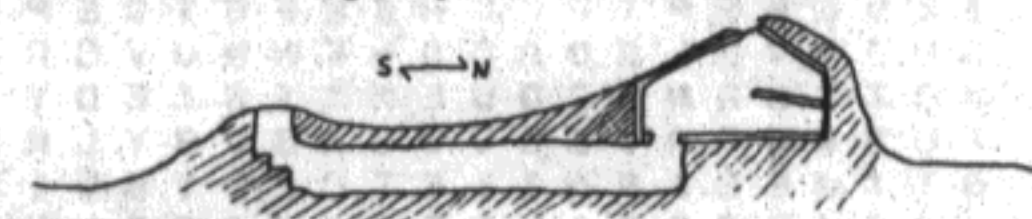
whaling industry during its peak.

When early explorers and whalers traveled to the Arctic they would often develop the disease, scurvy, as they had no fresh foods to provide them with vitamin C. The Inupiat showed these adventurers a grass they could eat that is



high in vitamin C. They also showed these adventurers how to preserve greens in seal oil. With this knowledge, the Arctic could be explored and harvested.

The kayak has gained acceptance as the best in light, easy-to-handle boats. Using a kayak



in a river has been an event in the Olympics since 1972. The Inupiaq, qayak, was included as a new word in the English language, but it is spelled kayak.

As more and more people arrived in the Arctic they realized the value of Inupiat clothing. The traditional design for a parka has been adopted wherever it is cold. It has helped man reach the poles of our planet as well as the highest point, the top of Mt. Everest in the Himalayas. There is no better clothing in a cold environment than the Eskimo

Parka.

Other articles of clothing that have been widely accepted are Kamipiak, skin boots, with atutik, inner socks. Now they are boots with foam or felt liners. Yuqluktak, snow goggles, are still used and are excellent in the bright Arctic conditions. Dark glasses with side panels provide similar protection.

Energy-efficient shelters were known and used by the Inupiat long before the modern world picked up the idea. The Inupiat used half-buried, round sod houses that were built, for the most part, facing the south winter sun.

The ground, no matter how cold, is a source of natural warmth during the winter. The

low, curved roof can be built with the least amount of outside wall.

The igloo was covered with urut, tundra sod, which is thick and full of small air holes. It makes excellent insulation when covered with wind-packed snow. An entrance from the floor was used as heat rose and filled the living area.

Today we have round tents for their light weight and spaciousness. Geodesic domes are easy to heat and use less building material than a standard home.

Recently, dry areas of the world have developed ways to extract fresh water from ocean salt water. Desalinization plants are big and expensive. The Inupiat have used selected seawater ice, piqaluyak, for fresh water for generations. It is a matter of knowing your environment and knowing what it will provide for you. Fresh water was even collected by using moisture from the air. Hoarfrost could be used even while out on the sea ice.

With the development of large refrigerators and large vacuums, the frozen food in-



dustrial was built and expanded to include freeze-dried foods. Today frozen meals and products are standard in most American homes. The Inupiat have known that freezing will preserve food as it was part of their lifestyle. Ice cellars provided for year-round storage of frozen food.

Cold could also be used in combination with sun and wind to dry animal skins. Only recently have museums,

like the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., begun to preserve animal hides by freeze-drying them.

As hunters, the Inupiat would act like their prey. They would carefully watch the animal's behavior and then mimic it. They could approach seals and caribou until they were close enough for an easy kill. During whaling the boat and crew, in white and silence, would be like an iceberg and could come close to the whales. The Inupiat can copy all kinds of behavior, even that of other people.

The Inupiat were masters of living in a cold environment. They lived in balance with the land, sea, and animals. They were inventive and had confidence in their tools and in themselves.

Live your culture. Don't let it slip away.

