



SUCCESSFUL WHALER — John Oktolik, who caught a 30-foot bowhead whale last May at Point Hope, is passing out slices of his whale's flukes, a part of the traditional ceremony in which the successful hunter calls out the name of each person to whom he gives a slice accompanied by remarks of good fellowship and humor. John is an able manager of one of the more prosperous ANICA stores, the Point Hope Native Store in his village. The whaling celebration was held on June 10-11-12 in which the traditional Nalukatuk (blanket toss) was performed along with feasting and games. —Wien Airlines Photo by Frank Whaley



RETIRED WHALING CAPTAIN—Peter Kooncoyak at 97 is the oldest man living at Point Hope. Some people believe he is even older. Peter is now retired but he was known as one of the great whalers in his village during his younger days. His advice is sought after by younger hunters today which he gives out in meticulous detail as to safety measures, the strike and the approach. He warned against carelessness and did not hesitate to tell the young captains where they were wrong. Peter was a young man when the famous and notorious Chief Attunkowruk of Point Hope was murdered in 1885. —Wien Airlines Photo by Frank Whaley



CAPTAIN'S GIFTS OF MUKTUK—Patrick Attungana, who caught a 43-foot bowhead whale the past spring, is passing out avahraq (slices of whale flukes) to the people of Point Hope, a traditional gift of good fellowship. Patrick is a veteran whaler as well as a fine Eskimo dancer. He was one of the group, along with John Oktolik, who went to Washington, D.C. to perform Eskimo dances during the inauguration of President Lyndon B. Johnson. —Wien Airlines Photo by Frank Whaley



WHALING CREW SLICING FLUKES—Following tradition, the crew of the successful whaler is slicing the flukes of the whale to be given to the people of Point Hope by the captain as gifts of goodwill. The men are resplendent in their colorful new parkas made by their women especially for the whaling celebration that was held on June 10-11-12. —Wien Airlines Photo by Frank Whaley



TRADITIONAL NALUKATUK—The man is being tossed high into the air during Nalukatuk (blanket toss) performed as a highlight of the whaling celebration earlier this month at Point Hope. Forming the arch in the foreground are 15-foot jawbones of the whale caught in 1961 by Allen Rock. The whale was estimated to be around 60 tons in weight. —Wien Airlines Photo by Frank Whaley