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# ***Pt. Hope Presents Baleen to Oquilluk For Imuruk Project***

POINT HOPE—The Tigaramuit, People of Point Hope, have presented William Oquilluk, Kauwerak Eskimo, with baleen needed to construct special items of the Eagle-Wolf Messenger Feast that he is trying to preserve.

Oquilluk was born in Pt. Hope, in 1896. His grandfather, Etorinia, worked at the old whaling station and his family stayed with him. When William was about seven years old the family returned to Imuruk Basin to the now abandoned village of Mary's Igloo.

Research in preparation for the publication of the history of the Kauweramuit required Oquilluk's return to Pt. Hope after a 70 year absence. He visited during the Whale Festival and renewed many old friendships.

First to greet him was Jimmy Killigivuk, then William and Jimmy's sister, Nanny Ooyahtoana. Oquilluk visited Mrs. Ooyahtoana's sod house which was walls and floors made from the planks of old whaling ships.

Later, with the friends of his boyhood, he sat in the shelter of upturned whale boats and sang songs they knew in their youth. Each of the whaling crews gave him a generous gift of muktuk.