



BONE MONUMENTS—The famous cemetery at Point Hope is fenced with whale jawbones, about 250 of them. Great whalers who have passed on have as their headstones, large jawbones for monuments. The couple in the background are repairing a cross of a relative.



BLOWS FUSE—Usually mild mannered, mayor of Point Hope, Bernard Nash, showed considerable agitation when he learned that a Canadian researcher had been gathering whale bones for shipment to Canada. "Our ancestors worked pretty hard to get those bones. We're not going to send them away. We have plenty of good uses for them," he said.



BONE ARTIST—Alec Frankson is one of the better bone artists at Point Hope. He makes masks, keekeetooks and animals out of his unusual medium.



BONES OF CONTENTION—Loosely gathered on the north beach at Point Hope are bleached whale bones, many of them head bones. The skeletal pieces were hauled on the beach under the direction of Ed Mitchell of Fisheries Research Board of Canada who

wished to ship them to his country for research purposes. However, Point Hope city council objected claiming that Mitchell had had the bones gathered without consulting the people of the village. The bones were taken within a National Monument area.

—Photographs By **SHEILA TURNER**

Bone Controversy Rattles Northern Village of Pt. Hope

The residents of Point Hope in the far northwestern part of Alaska had bones to rattle this spring. The rattle became so loud that one of the leading citizens, Dan Lisbourne, warned a Canadian that he would invoke the Antiquities Act.

The furor came to pass when Ed Mitchell of the Fisheries Research Board of Canada attempted to cart away some whale bones, many of them head bones of bowhead whales. Mitchell wanted them for research purposes.

"We didn't know he was gathering the bones," Dan Lisbourne said. "He didn't consult with any one of us."

Lisbourne laughed out loud at this point.

"It was really something," Lisbourne continued. "I've never seen Bernard Nash so

angry before. You know he is kind of easy going most of the time but not that time.

"He came straight to me and said, 'How come you gave that guy, Ed Mitchell, permission to gather those whale bones to be shipped away?' I told Bernard I didn't know anything about it and that I hadn't given anyone permission to ship bones away."

Bernard Nash is the present mayor of Point Hope.

The residents of Point Hope have deep cognizance of the archaeological sites around them. There is an old village site on the northwest of the village and the famous Ipiutak ruins to the east a mile away.

The villagers have been worried about the wave erosion on both sites for many years. A few feet of the old ruins

have been washed away each year during heavy fall storms from northwest.

The people are looking forward to the visit of some U.S. Corps of Engineers men to make a study of the erosions next month.

At any rate, the bone furor this spring sprung from the fact that the bones gathered by Mitchell were within a National Monument area. The Department of the Interior declared the sites as such some years ago.

Dan Lisbourne was quick to point out that the violation of the Antiquities Act means \$500 fine and 90 days in jail.

In the meantime, the bones gathered by Mitchell are languishing in a loose pile on the north beach of Point Hope.



BONE CONTROVERSY—Ex-mayor of Point Hope, Daniel Lisbourne, was right in the thick of the bone controversy this spring when a Canadian researcher attempted to ship whale bones from the village. After a

council meeting, in which the bone of contention, of course, were bones, Lisbourne warned the researcher he would invoke the Antiquities Act. The whale bones had been gathered within a National Monument area.

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