

State Sponsored Village Hunters Bag Caribou

Hunters from Venetie, Arctic Village and Fort Yukon have returned home from a State-sponsored hunt at Bettles with 15,000 pounds of field-dressed caribou.

The villages in the upper Yukon area were caught short of meat this winter when migrating caribou missed the villages. When notified of this situation, Governor Hickel ordered an Air National Guard C-123 to transport the hunters

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Hunters . . .

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to where they could obtain game.

About 10 hunters from the villages were flown to Bettles. Aided by excellent hunting weather, the villagers took 40 caribou from a herd 10 miles from town Monday, and later shot 15 from other herds.

The field-dressed caribou were hauled back to Bettles by snowmobiles. The animals for Venetie were flown there Wednesday, but the flight to Arctic Village was postponed when the plane was weathered in at Bettles yesterday.

An ABC-TV camera crew from New York arrived in Alaska too late to film the actual hunt, but will photograph the delivery of the animals to the villages. Scenes of hunters from Bettles will be added to complete the color-film report.

Commenting about this hunt, Governor Hickel said, "we are solving this problem in an Alaskan way by making it possible for the people in these villages to hunt.

"The only way to resolve this situation permanently is to see that we have the kind of economic development that will give these people a steady income."