

Gambell Festival—

Whale Festival Exciting

By PAUL H. JENSEN

Rarely has an Arctic festival come to such an exciting finish as the getting of a whale at the end of the Gambell Whale Festival.

Chartered flights from the mainland and families on snow machines from Savoonga came to join in the festival which was initiated only a year ago by Bob McHenry, the Principal at the BIA School.

Anders Appassingok was Master of Ceremonies which included a detailed reenactment of an old whale ceremony, Old Raven, Walrus, and Polar bear dances were demonstrated to an awed crowd.

There were parka parades, tug-of-war contests, dog sled races, and snow machine races. The usual Eskimo dances were expertly and enthusiastically performed.

A surprise addition to the festival was an Eskimo dance by 26 children from Dallas, Oregon, who currently are living in Gambell. The Gambell people gave their approval with a thunderous applause.

A number of walrus hunters arrived. However, no one wants to hunt walrus while they hunt whale, because that might scare the whale or be offensive to the whale.

Monday morning, May 1, was a calm sunny day. There was early activity. By 8 a.m. most of the boats could be counted in the Bering Sea by their sails.

No outboard motors are used in whale hunting until a flag is raised to signify a catch.

At that moment all the boats lowered their sails, inserted the motor in the well, and sped to the aid of the lucky hunter.

When he reaches the whale he prepares to add a harpoon with an explosive head. There is no confusion. Everyone seems to know his place. The movements of the whale determines the number of harpoons.

When the whale ceased to move, 17 umiaks manned by 106 men moved close to the whale to receive fresh muktuk. It was a victory feast for empty stomachs. For three years this village has gone without a whale, so essential to the food supply and the economy of Gambell.

This village was really thankful to Stanley Oosevaseuk and to all the hunters who helped in getting the whale.

When news reached Gambell by walkie-talkie the people almost went wild with joy. The few boats left in the village rushed to the scene 12 miles out to help bring the 55 ton whale to the village.

and Ralph Apathiki had two ¼ inch walrus skin ropes strung from the lead boat to the whale. Quickly, 17 boats lined up to attach their boats to the main line.

Beautiful team work was seen by all. The motors started and soon 17 boats like teams of horses began to pull the heavy load.

It was a memorable sight to see their boats and 106 men pull as one experienced team. There was joy and laughter. Five miles from the village a flare went up to celebrate the occasion.

But some young men used part of the five hour trip to get a nap knowing that they would spend many hours distributing great amounts of meat and muktuk to the more than 400 villagers.

As in a slaughter house in Oregon, experienced men immediately began to cut huge slabs of muktuk and meat, some pieces weighing as much as a thousand pounds. Some were loaded on sleds and hauled to the village less than half a mile away.

Muktuk is a delicacy among coastal Eskimos. It consists of an inch of black skin and half an inch of fat. This is usually considered a dessert. It is chewed much like chewing gum.

The fat with muktuk, however, is only a small amount of the 12 inches of fat all around the whale. All mammals in Northern climates have a layer of fat to protect themselves against subzero weather.

Even though school and all social activities ceased to function for the rest of the day, there was real learning taking place as the whale was being brought to shore.

The most interesting was the baleen, a fiber like material which serves as teeth and as sieve in the whales mouth. The whale lives mainly on plankton. The more than 600 baleen teeth are approximately 12 ft. long.

The Eskimos use them for making baleen baskets, small baleen boats, sleds and for decorations. Such items are sold to tourists for handsome amounts.

For Eskimos who are too proud to ask for welfare, such a whale is their economic salvation: Without the taking of whales, walrus, and seals the 33,000 Eskimos of Alaska would be on welfare.

For thousands of years the Eskimos have formed a balance of nature in this part of the world. They have made wise use of the few natural resources available to them.

Barrow Whaling Crews Get 13

By ROGER McPHERSON

BARROW — As early as March, radio monitors placed by the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory at Point Barrow recorded whales passing. When the lead opened around April 20th, whaling for Barrow had begun. Nate Neakok's crew, after three unsuccessful years, caught the first whale — twenty-five feet in length.

On the stormy night of April 24th, crews were coming in from the lead; strong winds were blowing up waves, making the ice unsafe. Sadie Neakok, former Magistrate of Barrow, was in the Community Hall playing Bingo when word came in: The Neakok's had a whale!

Forgetting her purse in the excitement, Sadie rushed home. People filled the house and the flag she had sewn for her husband's crew was already up on the house-top.

When the meat and muktuk came in early the next morning, Sadie placed it in a big pot of boiling water, and served it up to a long line of people.

Much of this first whale is given away, and what is left is stored for the Nalakatak celebration in June, as well as for the Thanksgiving and Christmas feasts.

Arnold Brower's crew got the second whale on the 27th of April, and then three more whales were brought in the next day. School children spent their time out at the butchering sites; whole families rode out on the big freight sleds.

From Barrow, four miles of trail over one pressure ridge led to the open lead. Whaling conditions were ideal. Each promontory of ice had a whaling crew with skin boat, harpoons, white tent, and windbreak.

Early in May, Allen Kaleak's crew got the 6th whale. As they cleaned out their ice cellar, the men smiled over the large slabs of muktuk and whale meat.

This was only the first of two whales Allen Kaleak's crew would get. Robert Aiken's house had similar piles of meat in the front yard. "Sleepless nights" was how old Eskimos of Barrow called this time of year.

When the successful crew got a whale, the captain's house (or another house large enough for all the guests) had a flag placed on its roof.

For a full day following the catch, the village could visit and taste boiled fresh muktuk, have tea, crackers, and stewed fruit. If a guest wanted, he could fill a plastic bag for other relatives.

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS
STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Sealed bids in single copy for furnishing all labor, materials and equipment and performing all work on Project G-40022 and G-40032, Grayling and Anvik Local Access Roads described herein, will be received until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, June 1, 1972 in the Commissioner's Office, Department of Highways, Island Center Building, Douglas, Alaska.

This project will consist of grad-and drainage of 5,700 linear feet of roadway at Grayling and 3,500 linear feet at Anvik. The work is located in the town of Grayling and Anvik, Alaska, located on the Yukon River. Principal items of work consist of the following: 15,500 cubic yards of Selected Material; 38 linear feet of 36" Corrugated Steel Pipe; 30 linear feet of 48" Corrugated Steel Pipe; and miscellaneous items of work.

All work shall be completed in 60 Calendar days.

Plans and specifications may be obtained by all who have a bona fide need for them for bidding purposes from the Chief Design Engineer, P.O. Box 1467, Juneau, Alaska 99801. Plans may be examined at Department of Highway Offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Valdez.

B. A. Campbell
Commissioner of Highways

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The women would make many dishes for their families to eat: muktuk boiled, pickled, or fried; whale meat fermented or boiled many times in fresh water.

Because of the expenses and time involved in whaling, some hunters prefer to skip whaling and prepare for geese hunting and summer fish camps.

John Nusunginya mentioned the high cost of maintaining a whaling crew out on the ice for a month and a half. For him, fall whaling in open boats offered quicker kills and less cost.

After losing many dart bombs, Ralph Aveonna's crew got the 9th whale May 7th. As the men cut up the thirty foot whale, several hundred villagers, came out to help.

A few yards east of Ralph's whale was the Neakok camp, and west was Robert Aiken's camp. Whale ribs and the red stains in the ice were all that remained of the first whales caught.

On the same day, Allen Kaleak got his second whale. A

LEGAL NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS
STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Sealed bids in single copy for furnishing equipment rental and labor rates, and performing all work at the specified rates under Extra and Force Account work, on Project G50022, O'Brien Creek Access Road, described herein, will be received until 2:00 p.m. prevailing time, June 1, 1972, in the Commissioner's Office, Island Center Bldg., Douglas, Alaska. Equipment rental and labor rates for mobilization thereof, are being called for on the following items:

Item No. 110(1) - Lump Sum - Mobilization.
Item No. 109 (1) - One - Equipment: (D 8H(46A) class or equivalent, with tilting U-Blade
Item No. 109(2) - One - Equipment: Swing Drill - Crawler with 4" drifter, swing boom (rental includes drill steel bits - 3 inch bits and incidentals)
Item No. 109(3) - One - Portable Air Compressor - 365 to 600 CFM @ 100 psi: (rental includes pipe, hose and couplings)
Item No. 109(4) - One - Equipment: Wheel Loader - diesel engine with 5 to 6 cu. yd. bucket
Item No. 109(5) - Two - Equipment: Rear Dump - 10 Cubic yard truck (will be required to haul rock)

These rates will include operators' wages, including all support labor required by union agreements, subsistence, overhead and all fringe benefits, together with fuel, lubrication, repairs maintenance, insurance, taxes and other charges necessary to keep the equipment in good operating condition. These rates shall be paid for the period the equipment is actually working on the job site. Moving costs, or any period of time lost or delays caused by breakdown or defective equipment will not be paid for by the State. No standby time will be paid.

Item No. 109(6) - One - Labor: General Foreman
Item No. 109(7) - One - Labor: Powder man (with Blasting License and to run the drill)
Item No. 109(8) - One - Labor: Driller's Helper

This project will include the construction of certain areas between Chitina and O'Brien Creek as directed by State personnel. The State will furnish the explosives plus all materials not listed. Labor for these operations will be at the bid price per hour. The hourly rate to include overtime, all fringe benefits, subsistence, overhead and miscellaneous hand tools.

The proposal should include the owner's name and address, the hourly rate, the make and model of the equipment offered, and the location where it may be inspected.

Project No. — G-50022
Location — Chitina to O'Brien Creek

Starting date of project and quantities of work available are subject to final approval. Award will be made on the basis of age and condition of equipment, as well as the hourly rate. The Contractor will be required to have all equipment and labor forces ready to work on the project site within thirty days after the Notice to Proceed.

Plans and specifications may be obtained by all who have a bona fide need for them for bidding purposes from the Chief Design Engineer, P.O. Box 1467, Juneau, Alaska 99801. Plans may be examined at Department of Highway Offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Valdez.

B. A. Campbell
Commissioner of Highways

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north-east wind came, blowing up heavy seas and making ice break off. Harold Itta's crew killed a whale the night of May 8th, but only saved half when the ice pack started to come in.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES
IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE
LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that the Local Boundary Commission, under authority vested by AS 44.19.260 (a) (2), proposes to adopt regulations in Title 6 of the Alaska Administrative Code to implement AS 44.19.260 and AS 29.80.011, as follows:

(1) Title 6 is amended by adding new and revising existing provisions as described in the following summary:

a. Addition of standards for city and borough boundary changes. New regulations prescribe criteria which must be met by proposals to annex to or detach territory from cities and organized boroughs. Criteria include consideration of extent to which territory is bounded by existing corporate limits, municipal ownership of land, urban, suburban and rural character of territory, the relative need for and ability of a city or organized borough to provide for municipal services, and the effect on the health and safety of local residents and the interests of the state and the municipality whose boundaries are proposed to be changed. Additional criteria for borough boundary changes include consideration of standards set forth at AS 07.10.030.

b. Standards for dissolution of cities. New regulations prescribe criteria which must be met for dissolution of a city. Criteria include consideration of city debt status, suspension of authorized governmental functions and municipal taxation for a substantial period of time, failure to hold regular elections, and inability to meet the minimum standards for incorporation as provided by applicable law.

c. Comprehensive procedural regulations for boundary change proceedings. New regulations define how and by whom a petition may be initiated, the form and contents of a petition including appropriate exhibits, the filing of briefs, service of a petition upon adjoining or otherwise affected municipalities, Local Affairs Agency review of a petition filing by petitioner, procedures by which the public may give its opinion in response to a petition, form and content of the Local Affairs Agency report on a petition to the Local Boundary Commission, public hearing notice and hearing procedures, procedures governing decisional meetings, procedures to be followed in instances of non-compliance with regulations, authority of Local Boundary Commission to determine appropriate procedures to follow when several alternative methods are available and the method of certifying boundary changes. At the oral hearing specified herein, the Commission will also consider to step an annexation procedures and to procedural regulations governing incorporation of boroughs out of territory presently incorporated for organized borough purposes.

(2) The regulations proposed for adoption will replace and in part add to those adopted by the Local Boundary Commission on November 22, 1971, and filed with the Lieutenant Governor on November 24, 1971, under AS 44.62.250. Notice is also given that any interested person may present oral or written statements or arguments relevant to the proposed action at a hearing to be held in the Conference Room of the Office of the Governor on the third floor of the Capitol Building, Juneau, Alaska at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 16, 1972.

The Local Boundary Commission, after Friday, June 16, 1972, may adopt the above proposals substantially as described above without further notice.

Any interested person may inspect the proposed regulations during regular business hours at the following locations: Local Affairs Agency, Room 216, Goldstein Building, Second and Seward Street, Juneau, Alaska; State Economic Opportunity Office, 511 West Fourth Avenue, Suite No. 1, Anchorage, Alaska; Office of the Governor, State Office and Court Building, 602 Barnette Street, Fairbanks, Alaska. Copies of the proposed regulations may be obtained by writing to the Local Affairs Agency, Pouch AB, Juneau, Alaska, 99801.

Wednesday, May 10, 1972.

Byron I. Mallott, Director
Local Affairs Agency

for the

Local Boundary Commission

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