

Thank you Barrow

In the newspaper business, stories that make headlines and bring reporters running usually have to do with tragedy, malfeasance, or other unpleasant things.

So it was with great happiness that last week, I had a chance to attend and participate in the Barrow Nallukatak to celebrate this season's whale catch.

The festival proved to be far more inspiring and happy than hoped for and gave a glimpse of the proud people who inhabit the North Slope and make their lives around the sea.

Their hospitality and spirit of giving was warm enough to ward off the cool winds that blew across the sandy beach during the festival. And the obvious renewal of the Eskimo traditions and annual revitalization of the culture was one that anyone who seeks to change the way of life should see.

The Nallukatak demonstrated that people can live together under what many would consider inhospitable circumstances and continue to thrive and keep themselves close and strong.

The welcome given this newcomer and outsider was one which I shall remember warmly for years to come. The patience with which my questions were met was gratifying.

Thank you Barrow for opening your festival and showing the bounty of the human spirit.

Linda Lord-Jenkins