



*The 15-inch diameter, 70-pound stone sculpture was recovered in August 1986 from Nunivak Island.*

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## ***Cook Inlet Historical Society features stone head***

The May meeting of the Cook Inlet Historical Society will feature "The Stone Head from Nunivak Island," a slide presentation by Dr. Robert Shaw, state archaeologist with the Alaska Division of Parks, organized with the assistance of Kenneth Pratt of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The lecture will be at 8 p.m. Thursday at the Anchorage Museum of

History and Art.

In August 1986, a 15-inch diameter, 70-pound stone sculpture of a human head was recovered from Nunivak Island.

It is the largest stone sculpture known from the Bering Sea region and is a rare archeological find. It was recovered on the surface as a solitary cultural object surrounded by tundra

vegetation.

Excavation revealed a stack of 14 whale vertebrae directly below. The age of the deposit is probably late prehistoric; wood and bone have been submitted for radiocarbon dating.

The sculpture has been placed in the museum on permanent loan from the Calista Corp., the NIMA Corp. and

the Mekoryuk Village Council.

It will be on view in the lobby during Shaw's lecture, and it will be placed in the Alaska Gallery afterward.

Shaw will discuss a local legend associated with the sculpture, as well as possible relationships in the culture and traditional art forms of the people of Nunivak Island.