



Arco Alaska employees gently maneuver the century-old whaling boat into their downtown headquarters building for display. photo courtesy Arco Alaska Inc.

Rediscovered in the Beaufort Sea

Century-old whaling boat now on display

A century-old whaling boat found near Prudhoe Bay, off Alaska's North Slope, is currently on display in downtown Anchorage in the Arco Alaska atrium at 700 G Street.

Restoration of the Nantucket-style whaling boat has recently been completed by Wasilla boat builder John

Breiby, under Arco's sponsorship.

The boat, believed to be one of the last of its kind in the world, was rediscovered in 1979 by Jack Lobdell, consulting anthropologist for Arco. It had been marooned by early whalers on Long Island, a small, narrow strip

of sand 10 miles offshore in the Beaufort Sea.

In 1984, Arco Alaska Inc. organized a volunteer crew of Prudhoe Bay construction workers to carefully retrieve the boat from its frozen lodgings.

In minus seven degree temperatures, the crew moved the boat by ice road to the Prudhoe Bay Operations Center. From Prudhoe Bay, the boat was transported to Wasilla for restoration.

The boat eventually will be displayed at Barrow in a museum planned by the North Slope Borough.