

Barrow Gets 4 Whales

By GUY OKAKOK
Barrow Correspondent

BARROW, (Special) - First whale were caught early this morning by Robert Aiken's crew on the 6th of May, 1971. According to Robert Aiken said that the whale they killed was a small one, but enough to feed people of Barrow children and adults, whites or non-whites.

Robert Aiken is a hospital employee, also a B. U. I. director. On that same day, another whale was caught by Alfred Leavit, much bigger than the first one. On 7th of May, Friday, Thomas Itta also caught a whale also a small one.

Another whale was caught by Robert Aiken again today, May 8th, 1971. Men who cut up the whale took only what they could take off the whale such as muktuk, no meat though, as heavy ice was piling on the whale.

Men only take part of this whale, everyone had to leave it as they couldn't stay there any longer on this perilous ice.

Too bad, they lost it.
NO SWILLERY

I was asked by one of the tourist yesterday, is there a bar around in our village?

I answered him, "Friend, I wish I could point out one to you, but our village is still dry village."

"Just a minute, sir," he said, I've seen young people out in the middle of the street walking zig-zag, so and so on. Sir, but where did they get it?"

I politely answered him, "I don't know."

HOUSE BUILDING

P. D. C. Construction hired several natives from Barrow village and 4 - rooms building is up in no time, all covered from outside.

Heard today that they will move in and work inside the new building.

SNOW, I SUPPOSE

I suppose snow is everywhere yet especially up here north as we have more snow than last year.

Streets here have snow, even

FAIRBANKS-The Alaska Native land claims issue is "hung up dead center" in the U. S. Congress, Sen. Ted Stevens warned members of the Republican Central District Convention last week. And unless Alaskans unite it just may stay hung up.

"We've got to get that bill passed if Alaska is to continue to develop itself as a state," he said. "I urge every one of you to be responsible ... to be positive about the fact we've got to get that bill passed."

Stevens believes the land freeze, imposed on Alaska by the federal government, will not be fitted until the claims are settled. He also noted statements by oil company officials that the pipeline from the North Slope will not be built until the claims are settled.

on main street to Airport.

BALEEN BASKETS

We do have whale baleen basket weavers here in Barrow. They make them any sizes a person asks for. Some baskets were full in design work and some are plain.

Contact them weaver if anyone really wants some. There here in Barrow.

dedicated to the right of each of its language groups to be educated in their own language - no matter how few spoke the language.

To what extent do Alaska's native languages survive today? By definition, a living language is one which the children of the community speak to each other. It is used by all members of the community in everyday life. In Alaska, the languages vary from the dying Athabascan and Tlingit languages to the strong Eskimo speaking communities around Bethel.

Alaska has traditionally divided its native groups into Aleut, Eskimo and Indian. For a linguist, these are unreasonable distinctions. There are several Indian languages and culture groups in Alaska and at least two main Eskimo languages. Yet for purposes of this article we will divide them into Aleut, Indian and Eskimo.

NEXT: Aleut language in Alaska.

He warned of a growing trend in government to preserve the federal land bank and predicted the conservationists might try and get into the act if claims litigation lingers.

He pointed out that the Case

Amendment to the land claims bill, if passed, would require the state to go before Congress for permission to build the oil pipeline. The amendment is backed by such men as Edmund Muskie and Ted Kennedy, he added.

Housing Program ...

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with representatives from AFN and the Alaskan State Housing Authority to consider the plan to build 1,200 homes for native people. According to the dictates of that meeting the BIA is supposed to provide technical assistance and funds for planning, but to date Ashby hasn't been approached on specifics.

"The AFN has a \$60,000 OEO grant to hire planning staff immediately," he reported. Three people at \$18,000.I think they're going to be the most important people they'll ever hire. They can make or break the program. I'm for it. But I'm afraid its moving too fast."

In 1969 Ashby's district was funded to build 20 homes in Kotzebue and more in Elim, Stevens Village, Brevig Mission, Shaktoolik and Stebbins. It's a self-help project by which welfare recipients can help construct their own homes. Buildings are 50 by 100 feet and cost in the neighborhood of \$11,500.

The bulk of construction is now done but Ashby readily

admits he still has things to learn about Arctic building.

"We're building three more homes in Stevens Village as kind of an experiment, trying to figure out how to do away with condensation problems," he said. "They will be basically the same floor plan but we're adding air space, varying side wall insulation, making one six inches, one four ... then keeping track to see if more or less heating is needed."

Condensation problems are by no means limited to BIA housing.

"I had a native in here the other day who had built himself a \$30,000 house and he asked me, 'How do I keep the water out? It's all over the floors and we can't stop it.'"

Planning also worries him on the federal program.

"I don't know how they can tell so quickly what they can do so soon. We spent more than a year planning with the villages to get their matching and machinery lined up. And we're still working on it."

Excuse from School ...

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tion of a possible closing and if the entire student body had quit, they'd simply use the marks as they stand.

Now, however, it looks like final exams may be distributed to bush areas to be given by local teachers.

In some respects, it may be a good thing the youngsters have gone home, Mrs. Magnuson decided.

"They were in a state of nerves anyway. The Anchorage pa-

pers have built this flood thing up and the papers went out into the bush. Parents were beginning to worry."

For better or worse, she's sure of one thing. That evacuation plan really was efficient.

"I've never had anything work so beautifully," she marvels. "Nobody had to stay overnight. The planes showed up right on time and everybody was gone!"

Wright, Murkowski ...

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hood. "With the approximate 265 million acres under 3,000 foot elevation less than 26 million already selected by the state, we have a remaining acreage within the state below 3,000 foot elevation of 239 million acres," he said.

However, he noted with alarm, that 151 million acres of this is set aside in perpetuity for federal agencies leaving only 88 million clear.

"Under the Alaska Federation of Natives proposal they would receive a preference selection over the state so when the Land Freeze was lifted and the state were free to go ahead with the balance of their selection of 77 million acres there would only be a remaining area of 28 million acres below the 3,000 foot elevation which is considered the habitable land within the state."

"We'll take Mt. McKinley if you don't want it," Wright assured him with a smile. "Permit us to bring 60 million acres into private ownership without stepping on anybody's toes."

The native leader maintained his people have a chance to penetrate federal reserves that the state can not. That half the 60 million acres they seek surrounding their villages lies in federally controlled areas such as the Rampart flood plain and game preserves.

Wright went thoroughly into the history of the claims, citing previous attempts at settlement by such men as Wickersham and the late Sen. Bob Bartlett and established legal precedent for settlement.

He also estimated that every dollar the natives spent turns over four times within the state and eight times outside.

It was Wright's first major address in this area. He flew from Washington, D. C. to make

the appearance and was well received by Murkowski as well as convention members.

Native Languages ...

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20th century to teach their Eskimo and Indian students English and washed pupils' mouths out with soap for speaking their own language, educators in Russian Siberia pursued another direction.

About 1,000 Eskimo people live in Siberia, a group identical to the 800 Eskimos of U. S. - owned St. Lawrence Island. Since 1932, Soviet educators have published a series of school textbooks, dictionaries and traditional stories for the children of this tiny group of Eskimos.

"The quality of these books has still never been surpassed in the United States (meaning Alaska)," explained Dr. Krauss.

Few of these books are available, even in photostat, to U.S. scholars. Yet, even the photostated copies of the few books available are impressive. They are beautifully illustrated, divided between traditional stories and lessons on Soviet life.

Despite propaganda, they represent a remarkable achievement - representing a country

Dance and Witchcraft ...

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freshing to see a trial that succeeded in this town," snapped Gary Thomas, Friends pastor who is also a board member. "It would be refreshing to see law and order back in Alaska again."

Perry noted that Eskimo dancing was optional and no child was forced to take it if he did not want to.

"I think there has been some pressure put on children to dance," Thomas charged.

"Maybe Mr. Green (Paul Green who heads the dance teaching staff) has been pushing a little too hard. If everybody was as enthusiastic as he is, this place would be boiling," Perry conceded.

But he noted not a single parent had complained to him about the program.

Then the discussion turned to witchcraft and paganism.

"What about Halloween? How pagan can you get?" one mother asked. "You celebrate that."

The Friends Church will be the first ones to fight it," Thomas said with a grin.

A Catholic priest and Episcopal minister spoke in favor of retaining the program.

On studying the petition it was discovered a couple of people known to be Eskimo dancers had signed. Someone suggested a second petition be started in favor of dancing to see if the same people would sign again.

It was noted that some of the original signers were not members of the Friends Church, but that seemed to be beside the point.

"We used to dance here, too, until the Friends Church came," Tommy Fields, school board member, recalled. "But dancing is sharing pleasure. Someone might take off their clothes. If the Friends Church had gotten to Point Hope first they'd have stopped dancing there."

As for the witchcraft, Field noted there were two kinds-good and bad.

"Who knows, maybe we're doing the good kind...and if the kids don't know the good kind from the bad kind, what difference does it make?"



EIELSON AFB, ALASKA-Virginia Rose Smoke (left) receives her certificate of completion recently for USAF E322 Typewriting II Course. Virginia, who is a Clerk Typist in Civilian Personnel, is the first native Alaskan to complete a typing course under Eielson's Project Hire, a program to employ an equitable number of native Alaskans here. With Virginia is Mrs. Cecil Lynn, Jr., teacher for Project Hire. Virginia is 21 years old and originally from Stevens Village.

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