

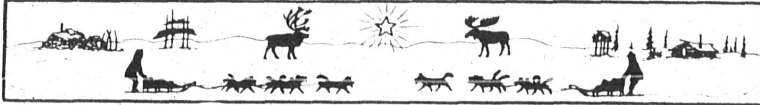
Tundra Times

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Inupiat Pitot People's Heritage

Den Nena Henash Our Land Speaks

Unanguq Tunuktauq The Aleuts Speak



Tingit
Ut kah neek Informing and Reporting

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WILL ESKIMO WHALING DIE?

There Is Fear of Sea Mammal Bill Among Eskimo Whaling Folks

By LAEL MORGAN



WHALE CAUGHT AT PT. HOPE — The Point Hope whalers are beginning to cut up the whale that had floated up from the bottom of the sea after sinking three days before. The only edible part of this whale is the muktuk, or skin of the

whale. The meat of such a whale is not edible because of the stench from bloating. Muktuk and baleen and some bones are recoverable items.

—Photo by LAEL MORGAN

POINT HOPE — As their forebears have done for ten centuries past, the Eskimos of Tigara launched their open skin boats this spring in pursuit of the mammoth whales that swim past Point Hope. There have been hundreds of whales and the luck of the hunters has been good. If it holds, the village of nearly 400 Eskimos will eat well, but there is fear among the people.

Soon the U.S. Congress will consider legislation that could make whaling illegal and also limit the taking of other sea animals on which the Eskimos depend for their livelihood.

The Natives will be given a chance to speak in defense of their hunting. "A congressional hearing is to be held in Nome [400 miles and \$120 (round trip and \$60 one way) away by air] May 12, but the meeting comes at the very height of the whaling season and if the hunters attend, they jeopardize the village food supply for the year to come.

"I'd go to that hearing if it was any other time of the year, but that is right when the whales are running best," explains whaling captain Billy Weber. "I don't want to leave my crew."

Weber was the first captain to land a whale this year. It was a 38 footer, weighing about a ton a foot. However, Point Hope men hunt together and share part of their catch so any additional whales Weber catches will benefit the village.

How much is a whale worth in equivalent groceries?

"Thirty to 60 tons," answers Bernard Nash, whaling captain and father of seven children. "We use every bit of a whale too. Everything but liver and lungs and those go to the dogs."

There's not much welfare in Point Hope, Mayor John Oktolik, also a whaling captain, points out. Some food stamps and, right now, a lot of unemployment checks from summer jobs. But Point Hope people are proud and independent. They live largely by whaling and they work for their whales, too.

John Bockstoe, archaeologist who's serving his second year as a member of a Point Hope whaling crew, reports the Eskimos of this area have been whaling steadily since about 900 A.D.

While the Siberian Eskimos adopted wooden sailing boats introduced by 19th Century Yankee whaling captains, and the Japanese whale from factory-like ships with sonar equipped scouting boats, the men of Point Hope still camp on the dangerous, fast moving ice and give chase through open leads in handsewn skin umiaks about 22 feet in length, open and powered only by paddle.

They gave up their ancient

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Plan to Train Head Start Teachers Runs Into Problems

By JACQUELINE GLASGOW
Staff Writer

The plan to train Head Start teachers has experienced a raft of problems getting a head start of its own. Shortcomings of a federal project under the auspices of Alaska Methodist University were brought to light at RurAL CAP's board of director's meeting held in Fairbanks April 26-28.

Led by Chairman Elmer Armstrong, the board listened to lengthy explanations by AMU spokesman, William Davis, as to why a program intended to train Head Start teachers and to come up with comprehensive long-term training goals had misfired from beginning to end.

Mr. Davis, admitting there had been conflicting reports between RurAL CAP's Head Start and the AMU staff, said, "Because of the conflict, some animosities have arisen."

The conflict revolved around the use of funds awarded to AMU from National Supplement provisions of the HEWS Office

of Child Development.

"AMU has had a lot of problems this year," said Mr. Davis, "particularly problems relating to Head Start." Nevertheless,

he affirmed the University's concern with the Head Start program.

"Since its beginnings, AMU (Continued on Page 8)

Alowa's Moving Testimony—

Savoonga Sends Him to Wash. to Testify on Mammals

On April 11, Allen D. Alowa from Savoonga, St. Lawrence Island, appeared before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Commerce, in defense of Eskimo use of sea mammals.

Mr. Alowa was in Washington, D.C., at the request of the people of St. Lawrence Island, particularly the villages of Gambell, Savoonga, and Northeast Cape.

He said, "It is not my wish that I am here, for I should be at home making preparations to insure that my children will be fed and warm the next winter."

Nevertheless, he made a moving and eloquent plea for the St. Lawrence way of life, which requires the use of sea mammals

as food and for necessary trade to obtain the necessities of life.

Describing his people's life on an inhospitable island 104 miles long and 20 miles wide, set in the frigid, windswept Bering Sea, Allen Alowa made clearly apparent the rigid conditions under which life survival is maintained.

"Life is constant activity... for one day of relaxation could mean starvation for a family."

"All meat bearing foods which Americans place on their

tables every day come from animals, yes animals," he said.

"Killed one way or another. We too kill animals and sea mammals because somehow, that's how it was meant to be. We do not waste at all. Our men die yearly trying to bring every bit of the sea mammal home to be used. To waste is to die."

He repudiated statements by Mr. Garmatz of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries that Eskimos shoot

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'WHALE' vs Mammal Legislation—

Group Joined by Lawmakers and Well known Natives

A plea for letters and contributions has gone out from a newly-formed committee aimed at opposing ocean mammals legislation detrimental to Alaskan Native groups.

A bill that would prohibit the use of ocean mammals was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in March by a vote of 362-10.

A similar measure that would allow subsistence use of certain species and for continuance of the Native crafts industries for

local marketing only is now pending in the Senate's Commerce Committee.

The group, named the WHALE (What Happens to Alaska's Living Eskimos?) Committee, is composed of members of the State Legislature's Bush Caucus and other well-known Native leaders, artists, and hunters.

Initial members of the Committee, organizing in Juneau, are Senators William Hensley (D-Kotzebue), Senator Kay Poland (D-Kodiak), Senator Jay Ham-

mond (R-Naknek), Representatives Martin Moore (D-Emmonak), Ed Naughton (D-Kodiak), George Hohman (D-Bethel), Chuck Degnan (D-Unalakleet), Carl Moses (D-Unalakleet), Frank Peratrovich (D-Klawock), George Charles, Emil Notti, Connie Paddock, Anne Walker, Brenda Itta, and Howard Rock.

One of the Committee members, Senator Willie Hensley said, "We hope to coordinate a successful effort to see that amend-

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Wright Asks Pipeline Approval

In a letter addressed to President Nixon, Don Wright, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, urges immediate approval of the permit to build a trans-Alaska pipeline.

Mr. Wright charges that proposals for a trans-Canadian pipeline will delay production of Alaskan oil "for perhaps a decade," whereas the groundwork and planning already completed for the Alaska route would make

pipeline construction a reality within a few short years.

"I cannot over-emphasize the feeling of betrayal that would occur among the Native people of Alaska if there is further delay in issuing the pipeline permit," Wright told Mr. Nixon.

Inherently understood at the time of the Land Claims Settlement, according to Wright, was "the intent of Congress and the

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