## Page 6 . Tundra Times, Wednesday, August 18, 1971

\section*{The White Dawn'- Book by James Houston About Eskimos...

proclaimed himself the leader,
the fighter, the strongest on the rock.
$\qquad$
see us. He roared again, and and females aside, he violently heaved his great bulk off the

## Dead Walrus Puzzles...

them.
hem.
"Probably one per cent have trichinosis. There was one epidemic in Greenland years ago but as far as I know we've never had any in Alaska. Anyway, trichinosis doesn't seem to bother the walrus. Just people who eat them.
"And the few samples we've taken are not high in mercury. Only fur seals and sea lions are Only fur seals and
high in mercury."

This would leave the main cause of death, hunting fatalities and the head hunter theory presists. John Burns notes that in years past, Gambel and Savoonga hunters have always had a self-imposed limit of four wal rus to a skin boat. There are reports this year that the limit is being ignored.
Witnesses in Nome say a boatload of ivory hunters slaughtered a number of animals and took only their heads no more than 60 yards from where a Japanese boat was anciored
If this is true, Burns warns, we may soon have reprecussions at the treaty conference table.
At the turn of the century
the walrus was almost extinct. he walrus was almost extinct. Whale hunters about 1868 began slaughtering the animals for their ivory when their regular prey got scarce.

A ban on commercial hunting proved successful, perhaps because by the time it came into effect there were too few animals left to make commercial hunting profitable.

Since the early 60 s , the population has been increasing at a rate of two to three per cent a year and current herds look pretty healthy.
To encourage ivory carving, the state requires a permit to buy and sell raw ivory. It goes or $\$ 2.50$ to $\$ 4.00$ per pound and cannot be sold retail. A set of tusks uncarved can bring an estimated $\$ 300$ in the black market but dealers say they re closely watched and there is little traffic.
"A lot of it goes, a piece at a time, to individuals. . Coast Guard, Fish and Game boys, the crew of the North Star," one trader said. "But there's no big traffic. You simply can't get way with it."
One of the major reasons for ncreased head hunting, as most uthorities see it, is that the Natives are no longer utilizing the meat. Hungry dog teams have been replaced by snow-
mobiles and foodstamps fill the larder.

About three years ago a proposal to use walrus meat for commercial dog food was considered by RurAL CAP but it wasn't followed , up. It's probably just as well. Walrus hides will fetch $\$ 78$ each but a buyer in Nome complains the Natives just aren't interested in taking just ar
"They can take them if they want tine meat," a trader explained. "But lady, did you ever heft a walrus? By the time you've pumped it full of air to keep it afloat or skinned it, the rest of the herd are miles away and there's no more hunting."
So it's simpler to take the heads and oosiks, which are the ticket to the cash economy. And people who know the area predict we'll see more of this.
"The problem has been with us for 20 years," Dr. Fay observes. "It's not the walrus hunters problem."
Some observers believe the hunting regulations should be reexamined. Others say we don't know enough about the animals and worry for fear we'll be beset by protesting hords of Sierra Club members before we can research.
According to Dr. Fay, walrus live about 40 years and produce one offspring every couple of years. They drift by our coasts with the ice every spring and fall; summer in the Chukchi Sea and winter in the Bering.
Dr. Fay is currently doing a report on their dining habits for this week's Science Conference at the University of Alaska.
"Everyone believes walrus us their tusks to dig clams but no one has ever seen them eat under natural conditions," he said "They just assume they use their tusks to dig clams becaus it looks like that's what they'd be good for. I don't think it's true. I think they drag them behind them and scoop clams with their mouths. But nobody's going to believe me."

Which, better than anything else, points up the problem. Nobody really knows that much about the beasts. This year's fatalities that kept their heads fatalities that kept their heads,
could have keeled over from sheer melancholia for all w know.

As Dr. Fay puts it, "It's not easy to be a walrus watcher unless you own your own ice breaker."


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## (Continued from Page 2)

rock with a series of powerful thrusts on his short wide-wébbed flippers.
battle of the water he was battle-scarred and clumsy, but when he slipped his huge brown bulk into the sea, he seemed as sleek and graceful as a salmon disappearing smoothly Beneath the surface. All of us eased our harpoons from their ivory rests and waited...
"Some say that the men rule the women in this land, but I am not one who would say that is so, for I have heard the women softly whispering to their husbands in the bed at night, yes, even about hunting plans. In the morning the hunters all too often follow the women's advice, often fllow the women's advice,
although no.man would admit this...
"Some say that we kill our old people. That is not true. Our old people have the strength and pride to kill themselves if they believe that their lives should come to an end.

Sometimes they may command us to help with their death, and so powerful is the word of a parent that his children may be forced to obey his wishes. That is our way, an ancient custom that we do not think is wrong."

The whalers were to disrupt the ancient customs in many ways. The simplest was their introduction of football.
"They showed the players how to kick the ball violently how to kick the ball violently and fight their way through their neighbors to reach their goal. It was rough and unplea-

## considering existing incorpora- ted municipalities and villages

## AFN Senate Lobbying...

congressional offices indicated last week that the Administration, at the time the land claims bill was reported out of the House Indian Affairs Subcommittee on August 3, considered a reassessment of its position which favored a 40 million acre settlement.

An Interior Department attorney stated Friday that the 40 million acre figure mentioned in the Administration bill repre sented a firm commitment.
Much of the Senate bill will depend on the strength of support offered by Alaska Senators Gravel and Stevens. During Interior Committee hearings in April, both Alaska Senators indicated that they would support a 60 million acre settlement.

Alaska Congressman Nick Begich, credited with breaking the land claims deadlock in the House, worked many days until the early morning hours in an effort to move the legislation.

When the AFN bill was introduced before the Senate, Senator Ted Stevens went on record as a sponsor "by request" of the legislation.
Neither Stevens nor Gravel has been acknowledged as enthusiastic over moving the issue. Senator Stevens, while respon sive to requests from Alaska constituents, has not received a reputation as a friend of a Na reputa
Senator Gravel, as Anchorage Daily News columnist C. Robert Zelnick recalled in a recent Washington Post story, was the
man who said he would be a Senator for Alaska while Senator Genator for Alaska while Senator
Gruening was more concerned about Laos and other far off about
Senator Gravel is now deeply concerned about Laos and other such far off places that his energies have been diverted from Alaska issues as the Native land

These two men have been the evening of October 9 at the
sant, puzzling to watch, and when my people understood his new game, they were shocked, for it was not a game
of pleasure. "pleasure.
But still they continued, for everyone wished to be polite to the strangers. In our minds it would have been rude of us to offend them."
But the whalers also introduced gambling and alcohol which served to undermine the power of the village leader. With
I.R.A. status.

A governing tribal agency and a governing document would result if the villages voted to accept the proposed constitution

Control of tribal affairs and funds received under pending land claims legislation could be achieved by the incorporating villages. The tribal corporation itself could become eligible to receive revenues and benefits which might otherwise go to individual villages.
Grants and loans currently available to Arctic Slope villages would not be increased by the creation of the proposed organization, Bruce noted.
In general, he added, a measure of flexibility would be afforded the members of the Eskimo tribal group if they decided to tribal group if they decided to
become an I.R.A. corporation.
One Washington attorney with considerable experience in Indian affairs expressed fear that,
among those predicting that the House would be difficult to persuade to act favorably on land claims. It now appears as though the Senate may have difficulty in even matching the provisions of the bill which is likely to come from the diffilikely to
calt House.
Should Senators Gravel and Stevens emulate the effort made Stevens emulate the effort made
by Congressman Begich to any extent, a settlement acceptable extent, a settlement acceptable
to Alaska Natives should soon be forthcoming from the Senate.

The real test will be to see whether two men can persuade a body of 100 as easily as one man can persuade 435.
Maybe, with any luck at all (perhaps even with a little effort) the 104 year wait of Alaska Natives will be over this year

## made.

Governor William Egan is expected to attend. Mrs. Ermalee pected to attend. Mrs. Ermalee
Hickel informed the Tundra Hickel informed the Tundra Times that she expects to be in Fairbanks. She said-her husband Walter Hickel will be out of town working in connection of his coming publication of his book.
The Alaska Federation of Na tives will be holding their annual convention in Fairbanks around the banquet date and many of the native dignitaries will attend the banquet.
The congressional delegation has been invited. Senator Mike Gravel is going to accompany eane Dixon and her secretary from Washington, D.C. to Fairbanks. Senator Ted Stevens and Congressman Nick Begich are xpected to attend.
All of the Alaska state legislators will be invited as well as many of the state's dignitaries.
out him they could not survive and neither could the village.
The author is a Canadian who after World War II lived in Baffin Island with the Eskimos for 12 years. He traveled the trails of the villagers and the whalers with his own team and wrote the story from stories the Eskimos told him.
Publisher is Harcourt Brace Jovanovich Inc. New York, 757 Third Avenue, N.Y. 10017. Price $\$ 6.95$.

## Slope Incorporation ...

## Tundra Times Banquet . .

Traveler's Inn with a no host cocktail hour beginning at 7:00 p.m. unt $8: 00$ p.m. at which

