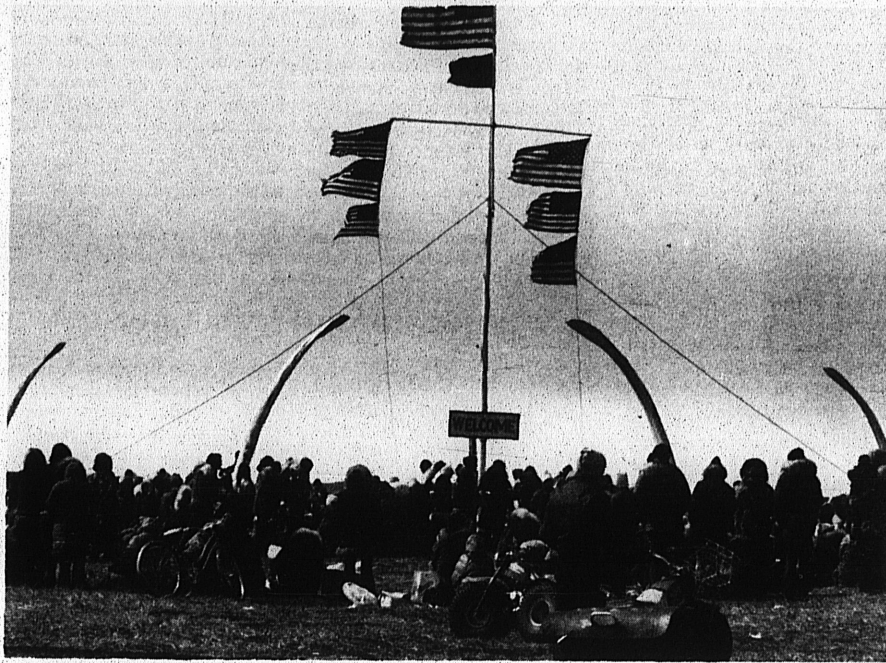
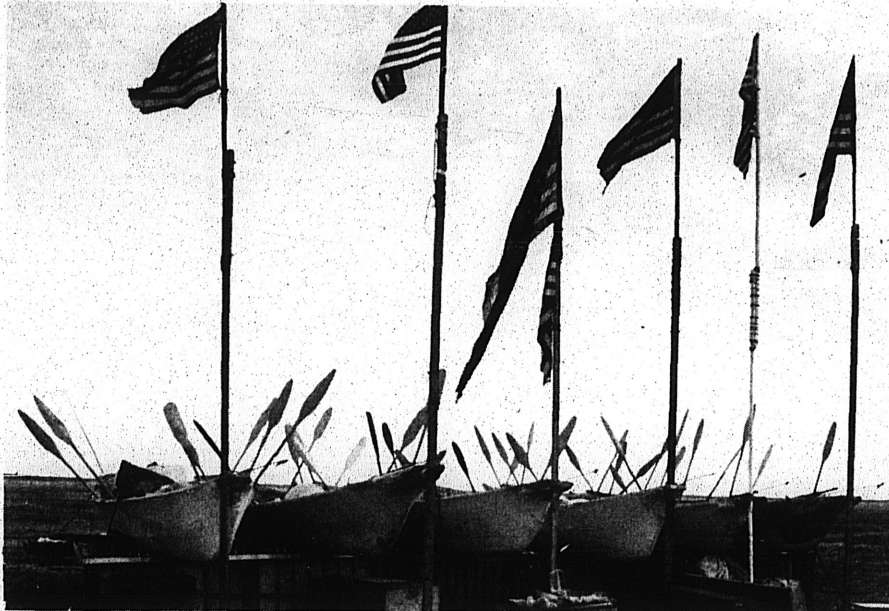


# Point Hope celebrates good whaling season

Story and photos  
by GARY LAMAR



**WELCOME TO POINT HOPE**—Several hundred people gathered at Point Hope to take part in the Whaling Feast.



**THE CAPTAINS' BOATS** are brought up off the beach and flags are secured to their masts and raised at the bow of the boat.



**THE NAKED FRAME** of an old whaling boat sits on a rack over some whale bones. The captains' boats are in the background.

It was a good year for whaling at Point Hope. Several hundred people came to share in the celebration of a successful spring hunt which brought 12 whales to the village.

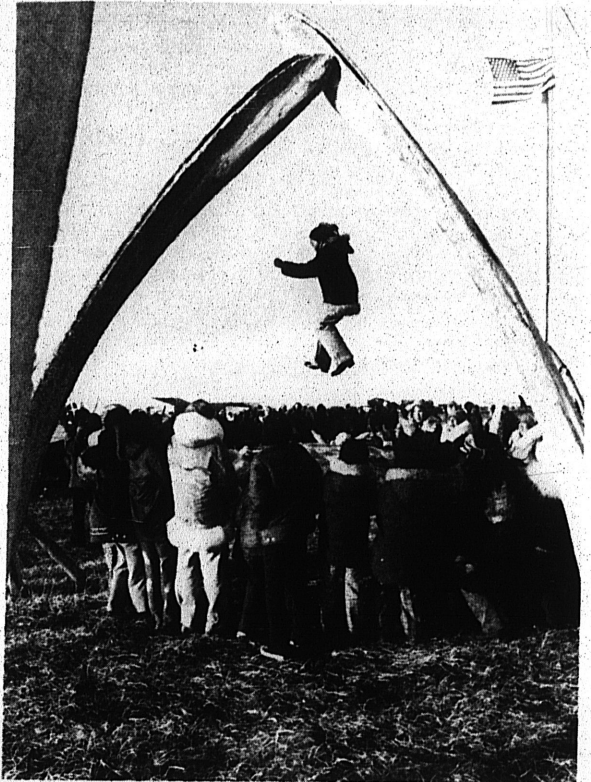
The festival, which lasted from June 13 through June 15, followed the old and beautiful traditions carried on by hunters year after year.

On the first day the crews bring the boats off the beach or ice and group them together. Flags are secured to masts and raised at the bow of each boat. Food is shared and the activity is finished until the following day.

The crews of the boats begin

very early on the second day. The boats are moved to another traditional spot and set in a half circle to break the wind. The people gather and thaptains of the boats cut and give out portions of the tail flippers. This is done in two separate areas with a break for coffee in between. Following the second giving of the flippers is the blanket toss and some dancing.

The last day's activities involve cooking much food and the internal organs of the whales. No one went hungry as the food and good spirit was plentiful at the close of a celebration of a good season hunting whale.



**BLANKET TOSS**—One of the many activities of the Point Hope Whaling feast.



**CAPTAINS OF THE BOATS**—tail flippers are cut and portions of them are given to the people participating in the feast.