

Historian William Oquilluk Addresses Native History Students

An Eskimo historian from Nome, William Oquilluk, recently addressed students of Alaskan Native History at Alaska Methodist University. He told of the events leading up to his decision to write the history of the Eskimo people of the Seward Peninsula and about the research behind the effort that took more than forty years to complete.

Mr. Oquilluk's book, nearly 600 pages long, will be published in late 1971. It will be illustrated with photographs of the region where different historical events took place and pictures of the remaining ancient sites, monuments, and markers placed in special areas of the Seward Peninsula and about the research.

There will be drawings executed by another Eskimo of the region who will illustrate the parts of the history that cannot be photographed. Negotiations are presently underway for release of the book, **WE ARE OF KAUWERAK, THE TRADITIONAL HISTORY OF THE KAWERAMUT**, through the AMU press as soon as publishing arrangements can be made.

Mr. Oquilluk reported that he first began writing down the historical stories of his people when he was a young man.

The changes that had come, and were still coming to the Eskimo people were causing people to forget their history.

Sometimes they did not even have a chance to hear it. After the manuscript was started, it became necessary to travel long distances by boat, dog-team, it became necessary to travel long distances by boat, dog-team, and reindeer sled to seek out and talk to the old people who still remembered the history taught to them by their parents and grandparents.

Only the history that was the same as told by five different old people who did not know each other was put into the book.

Many years went by and the manuscript was nearly done. Then a fire destroyed the manuscript.

The job began all over again. There were five very old people left who had helped put the history together the first time. Mr. Oquilluk began again to rebuild the work that had been lost.

In 1967 the President of the Arctic Native Brotherhood sug-

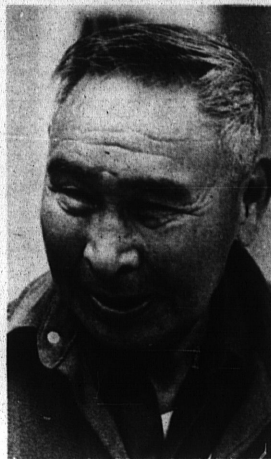
gested to Laurel L. Bland that she might be able to find a way so Mr. Oquilluk's work could be preserved, shared, and used in the education of Alaskan people.

From early 1967 a collaboration began between Mrs. Bland Barbara Trigg, Chairman of the ANB Education Committee and Mr. Oquilluk in a joint effort to bring hitherto unknown or unrecorded history of Alaskan Eskimos to the people of Alaska.

As a member of the Alaska Methodist University, beginning in September 1970, Mrs. Bland was able to aid Mr. Oquilluk to prepare a publisher's draft and to provide technical assistance in finalizing the manuscript and illustrations.

Mr. Oquilluk was born in 1896 at Pt. Hope where his Grandfather was employed by the whaling station. When he was about seven years old the family returned to Imuruk Basin.

Etorina, Mr. Oquilluk's grandfather, was responsible for transmitting the traditional history of his people to those who were under his leadership. From the



WILLIAM OQUILLUK

time the family returned to Imuruk Basin until Etorina's death many years later, the grandfather carefully instructed Wil-

liam Oquilluk in the history and legends of the Kauwerak Eskimos.

In time, it became the grandson's turn to assume this responsibility. When the days of the kozghi (community house) ended, there was no longer any way to pass along the history in the old patterns of education.

Thus, the only way to discharge this duty and obligation was to write down the story of the past and preserve it for the young people who could then read it in English.

Mr. Oquilluk has another book in process. This manuscript is composed of the teaching stories that were told for entertainment in the old days.

"It is not history," Mr. Oquilluk said. "These stories tell about Eskimo ways of living and some of the things they believed. It will be interesting to read when it is finished."

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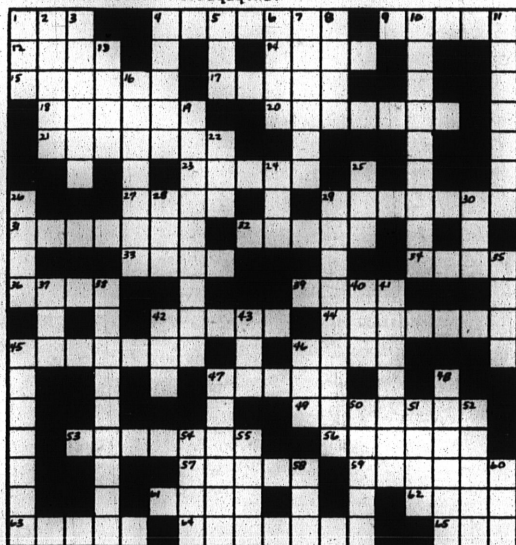
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Crossword Puzzle

Qanereyarat Qerarutaaleriit
(No. 10)

This bilingual crossword puzzle is designed for those who are literate in the new Yupik writing system developed by the Eskimo Language Workshop at the University of Alaska in College. The answers are in Yuk Eskimo. The correct answers to this puzzle will appear next week. Piluaqaqina.



Across
Akitmun

Down
Acitmun

1. handle
4. The two of them are licking.
9. door
12. sound, noise
14. pillow, your money
15. women
17. broom
18. He waits for them.
20. He reclines, retires.
21. bear
23. mouth
27. Spend a winter!
29. fish trap
31. its keys
32. things belonging to the two of you
33. the sole of his boot
34. insides, innards
36. ten
39. cooking pot
42. sore, pimple
44. It is burning.
45. lake
46. your bullet
47. his sores
49. I don't know.
53. you-all going out of the gray hair
56. of the gray hair
57. lights, lamps
59. bowl (Eng. loan word)
61. sometime
62. its skin
63. scale (of fish, etc.)
64. He is reading.
65. Let me see!

1. house
2. They are bent.
3. She prepares him.
4. his two catches
5. his eyes
6. Go up!
7. hole, perforation
8. who
10. You-all are smoking.
11. She is hungry.
13. excrement
16. You-all are sitting down.
19. It is far, distant.
22. surface
24. conflagration, fire
25. two things
26. ear perforation
28. kali... book, papers
29. goose
30. sole of foot
35. Quit!
37. tide, flood
38. They begin to ask.
40. already
41. land-dweller
42. mouth (river, bottle)
43. inside, innard
45. food
46. your eye
47. because I bow my head
48. of the one I put in
50. companion
51. its leg
52. their contents, bullets
54. hand
55. He hangs it up.
58. Come!
60. Oh, I see! (expression of understanding)



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AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL WHO FILED FOR REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE INUPIAK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR NOME:

Please send in all of your application forms, the ones you have filed before for the position of Regional Director to our office before September 9.

Your applications have been mis-sent by mistake. We need those applications which will be reviewed by the Board of Directors on September 9 and 10. Anyone who is interested should apply to:

Jerry Wongtittlin
Acting Regional Director
Inupiak Development Corporation,
Incorporated
Box 505
Nome, Alaska 99762

HELP WANTED: Applications for Regional Director of Rural CAP for Nome are being accepted. Contact Rural CAP, Box 505, Nome 99762 or phone 443-2796. Applications must be in no later than September 9.