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Report on musk ox hunting on Nunivak Island, Paul John, Brenda Malloy is interviewed by Skeeter Mallo, Senator Ted Stevens

Jeff Kennedy, moderator

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Dave Johnson, Alaska Fish and Game, said musk ox hunting is a fairly rare sport. It costs thousands of dollars to hunt so it will probably stay that way. Fifty people hunted in the first two hunts. Nunivak Island is located off the southwest coast of Alaska. There's no trees on the island but the cliffs, volcanic craters, rookeries and weather more than make up for that. All the permanent residents of the island live in Mekoryuk on the northwest side of the island. The people who live there speak an unusual dialect of Yupik although most people speak English. For the past half year the Eskimos living there have been hosts to people from all over the world during the musk ox hunting season. There have been Alaskan hunters and people from the lower forty eight. One of the hunters was the prince of Iran. Several were from Fairbanks. One of the hunters spoke with him. Bill Bond is from Texas and on his hunt they traveled 110 miles. He said they used snow machines for hunting. The ride was rough. Bill took his musk ox on the western side of the island. Bill said the high point of his trip was shooting his musk ox. He got a thrill seeing his first musk ox. Dave Johnson said they saw at least 150 musk ox while they were on the trail and at least that many reindeer, too. The reindeer are herded by the villagers for meat. He thinks all of the hunters enjoyed their hunting experience, the scenery and their chance to meet the people on the island.

Music from Gambell, St. Lawrence Island

Paul John recalled the days when schools first came to the village. His son Mark translated his remarks into English. Paul John said he is not educated and he can't speak English fluently. After he was married schools came to Nelson Island. Nelson Island was one of the last places to get schools. He is not able to read or write. He doesn't know a lot about white culture. When schools finally got to the area it looked like the students were going to have to leave school now and then because of subsistence living.

Music by John Fahey

Paul John said the people that live in Toksook Bay used to live in Nightmute. Every spring they used to move down to a spring and summer camp. They would hunt seal, fish and pick berries. Since it was creating a lot of problems for the school children the majority of the community moved to Toksook Bay where they didn't have to move back and forth for subsistence purposes. When they moved to Toksook Bay they could stay with the community, churches and schools. Moving of the community was a community effort. Everything had to be done by manpower they didn't have machinery to help. They

moved the houses with dog teams. They moved in 1964. They put sixty dogs together to move the houses. Every day they would go back and move a house. After the summer activities were over they started building a raft with 55 gallon drums. They put the houses on top of the rafts and towed them to Toksook Bay. When they put the houses on top of the raft they used manpower. They pushed the houses onto the raft.

Song by Mac Davis

Interview with Brenda Itta and Skeeter Malloy courtesy of KOTZ in Kotzebue. Brenda Itta said she has been enjoying her visit in Kotzebue. She is on her way to Juneau. She had been in Barrow for a meeting with Greenlandic and Canadian Eskimos. She wished she could stay in Kotzebue for the festivities. She is returning to Juneau for legislative activity. Skeeter Malloy asked her about bills pertaining to their area. Brenda Itta said right before she came there they passed a bill out of the Finance Committee calling for a 60 million dollar general obligation bonds for school construction for the state. In the bill is contained over five million dollars for the Kotzebue area and about three million dollars for the Barrow area. She has been working on various airport projects for her district. Malloy asked her about Pioneer's Home funding. Itta said it is in the budget on the House side and also on the Senate side also. She didn't think there would be problems with it. Malloy thanked her for coming. Itta said she will be returning this summer and she'll be out to the villages.

Music by Pete Seeger

Jeff Kennedy said in the past few years educational and public radio have come to the Bethel, Kotzebue, Dillingham and Barrow areas. Other Alaska areas needing radio stations have to compete with other areas of the country for funding at a time when the president is trying to cut federal spending. Senator Ted Stevens testified during hearings of the Educational Broadcasting Facilities Act. The Senate sub-committee on communication heard his comments. Ted Stevens said in Alaska we have situations where there are communities with no broadcasting facilities. He doesn't think that applicants in Alaska should compete with applicants that have not only major media stations but also public broadcasting facilities. He said the priority should be given to areas that have no broadcasting facilities at all. He hopes that major media markets will spread throughout Alaska, but in the meantime public broadcasting funds should be used for areas that have no broadcasting at all. He talked about public broadcasting's plans to shift over to satellite use for their national broadcasting programs. This has great potential for Alaska but he wants to make sure that the officials of the public broadcasting take into account that special arrangements must be made for Alaska to use this operation due to time differences and other situations in Alaska to make the public broadcasting facilities work. Alaska has public radio facilities and he wants to know if they will provide radio programming using the satellite system. Ted Stevens co-sponsored a bill to protect the Iditarod Trail. He said the bill has two purposes. It establishes for the first time a national historical trail system. Historic trail systems have not been protected. This bill would establish a new national historical trail system. It would also designate the Iditarod Trail as the first historic trail. The bill would protect and incorporate a number of trails used by gold seekers at various times in the history of Alaska. The basic route begins in Seward and follows some recreation trails on the Kenai Peninsula and through the Chugach Mountains behind Anchorage across the Susitna Valley and

across the Interior to Unalakleet and then across the Norton Sound to Nome. A large part of the trail is used by the dog racers each winter. This trail was used by people during the last great American gold rush to Iditarod in the early 1900s and he thinks it needs protection. If enacted the Department of the Interior would be in charge of managing the national historic trail system. Jeff Kennedy said a Kodiak resident has been named to the National Transportation Safety Board. Ted Stevens said Phil Hogue has recently been approved by the Senate. When Phil was in Alaska he got an accommodation. Stevens said he suggested Hogue's name because this agency has the responsibility of ensuring that safety standards are maintained in all forms of transportation. He is hopeful that Alaska's interest in safety problems related to transportation will be adequately reviewed by having Hogue on the National Transportation Safety Board. Jeff Kennedy said that the Department of Health, Education and Welfare has approved twenty new community health aide jobs for Alaska. Ted Stevens said these new positions are the results of an appropriation add on that he added to the 1976 fiscal year Indian Health Service appropriation. HEW has informed him that a special committee will be formed to review the request presented by the health corporations for these aides. He talked about the make-up of the committee. He said the new community health aides will begin their training in July and he believes this program has been a substantial benefit for people of rural areas.