

Sadie Neakok

one caught ~~with~~ will be  
 Losing whales - ~~another~~ ~~lost~~ to crew with member  
 born on nice, windy day (our crew!) All  
 laughed - maybe it's true - <sup>she was</sup> born on NE wind

Camped in blizzard when really rough - trouble goes with you

Would have stayed home, gloomy enough

Nate go out? 22nd, Saturday - didn't cover boat, finally found  
 out how to do it - sewed it up

1st whale - so much work getting her down, disappointed  
 Blizzard coming on (24th) Forget misery to go play Bingo  
 watch TV, too bad to go out. Gloomy, really down  
 worked on her; after nine, daughter trying to get  
 her out of house - gone to Bingo game - real blizzard

Crewmen coming in, wind too strong - Lost shot whale

Everyone coming in - Nate too - likes Bingo, will  
 probably come in (door locked due to big prize)

Boats all coming in - 10:30 knocking on door (<sup>too</sup> bad!)

Everyone worried so window opened - hunters there  
 so door opened - Someone said "Nobody going to catch  
 whale in this weather" Some one else "it will be  
 to crew with someone born in nice windy weather"

Hunters "We want Sadie!" - It was her son - "Mom,  
 we got a whale!" She took off, old custom - women  
 pulled her up, put her in air. Flag was already  
 up on house - all neighbors inside house

All began congratulating her - 3 years tried to get  
 one - once thought they got one, some one else claimed it

So discouraged after trying 3 years; Wilbur, crew member, suggested Nate go home, Their area, even with blizzard, was not breaking up so they stayed till whale came up Edward, smart aleck left for town and crew got whale, someone was holding crew back from getting whale - Sometimes captain leaves crew to see if he's the bad luck

Also never fight over catch or whole family will die off one by one - really happened -

What goes with catching big animals - never take someone else's whale or disaster

People all over house, served tea and more tea

4 a.m. women going off - Not enough water so began heating lots of water

Next day whale meat came 7am - cut up muktuk and boil it

Whale meat cooking - For whole crowd - boil it

Steaks can be fried - tender & delicious - not oily but sweet - deep fried in oil w/ crumbs & egg

Pickled muktuk - boiled - to be tender must be right off whale - drain off water into jar (glass or plastic)

used to be wooden barrel - Can't be seal skin pokes

since mixture must be boiling hot - Mixture:

4 parts water, one part vinegar, spices & sugar

Pickle only muktuk

Age meat, never pickle it, old meat doesn't get rancid or

3  
moldy - tastes like berries not meat - fermenting it for 7 days - Cut in strips, Mukluk in chunks - Must be in cold place so it doesn't bloat (air in)

Brain fried - good

Flags  
Flag up time - cook w/ different water Mukluk cooked with meat doesn't stay white, Blood stains - Separate waters Fresh water after five boilings - Blood sticks to bottom pot doesn't boil as well

Make own crew flags - design different from others (theirs black w/ white square in middle) Some similar w/ border on middle square, black in middle

(one PET 4 - w/ 4 in middle)

Story of design - <sup>David Brower's flag</sup> star in middle (white w/ black star)

Couldn't make 5-point star (6 or 8)

Changed design because someone else's was the same; made white streak, done with yellow later; no one liked it, discarded it ("he-man flag" - didn't like that remark, threw it out - looked terrible when hunting)

Been nice? - with dad as child - Sold baleen - Father had five crews every year til 9-10 years old - had trading store (Cape Smythe whaling station) One whale <sup>brought</sup> \$10,000 baleen - clean, wash, sun baleen for stays Women tend needs of men - make muklukes (now use rubber outer boots) Much work to make boots before, even during thickest part of whaling time

"Sleepless whaling week" <sup>(May)</sup> - so much whaling, women needed at camps, 3-4 days w/o sleep - grab men's clothes and

4  
dry them when they rest - Now down, etc - Several <sup>garments</sup> outfits to change - w/ caribou etc - couldn't wear wet coat - Cook for men, tend clothes, even go out in boats -

In boat - so exciting - hang onto boat when whale takes off, drag along so fast - very exciting for woman