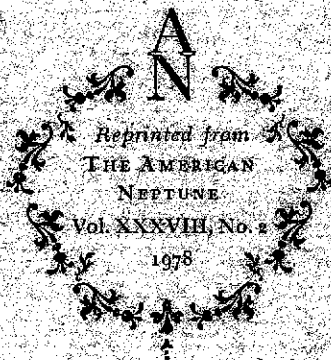
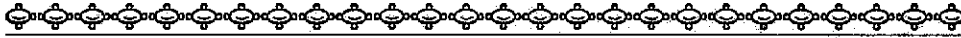


*A Chronological List of Commercial
Wintering Voyages to the
Bering Strait Region and Western Arctic
of North America: 1850-1910*

BY JOHN R. BOCKSTOCE and CHARLES F. BATCHELDER



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FROM 1848, when the western Arctic whaling grounds were discovered, to 1910, when the collapsing market for baleen destroyed the industry, whaling vessels and a few small traders made wintering voyages to the Bering Strait region and western Arctic. Beyond the importance of these voyages as the first commercial development of the region during the period of its most intense exploration, a significant by-product was the collection of valuable geographical and ethnographical information. But unlike voyages of exploration, these endeavors are not well known and our knowledge of them is probably incomplete; consequently this list is presented as an aid to researchers in the hope that it will stimulate further investigation and discussion.

Wintering voyages occurred for three reasons: to trade with the natives for furs, baleen and ivory; to engage in shore-based spring whaling; and—after 1890—to be nearer the summer feeding grounds of the bowhead whale than other ships, arriving from the Pacific, which were forced to navigate through many hundreds of miles of difficult, ice-filled seas. For larger vessels the suitable wintering sites were few. Plover (Provideniya) Bay and St. Lawrence (Lavrentiya) Bay in Siberia and Port Clarence, Alaska, were the only good areas in the Bering Strait region which had deep water, safety from moving ice, early breakup and a substantial native population. Beyond these the next good harbor was at Herschel

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Island, Y. T., nearly 1,000 nautical miles farther, and between the two only Elson Lagoon and Peard Bay near Point Barrow—both shallow, with tortuous entrance passages—could serve in emergencies. After 1895 when the declining numbers of bowheads forced the whalers to range beyond Herschel Island, winterings were carried out in less successful harbors; Baillie Islands at Cape Bathurst, Langton Bay in Franklin Bay and Balaena Bay at Cape Parry. Other than these, the alternative for larger vessels was to anchor on the open coast and to face—often disastrously—the drifting ice. Smaller vessels, drawing less than three meters, were able to use many other sites: In addition to the harbors mentioned above, Maryatt Inlet at Point Hope, Kasegaluk Lagoon at Icy Cape and many of the bays and lagoons on the shores of the Beaufort Sea and Amundsen Gulf offered shelter.

Because most whalers engaged in the fur trade it is often difficult to distinguish between whaling and trading voyages, particularly in the years after 1890, when whaling vessels entering the industry were usually not fitted with tryworks for rendering blubber and the fur and baleen trade became increasingly profitable. In the list below it should be assumed that the vessels were outfitted as whalers or cleared port on a whaling voyage unless they are indicated otherwise.

The Old Dartmouth Historical Society intends to publish a complete list of summer and winter whaling voyages to the western Arctic and to include bibliographic references and details of the vessels and their crews. For researchers interested in summer voyages to these regions *The Whalers' Shipping List and Merchants' Transcript* (New Bedford), published from 1843 to 1914, is particularly helpful; *The Friend* (Honolulu) is also useful for the eighteen fifties and eighteen sixties. Starbuck's (1878) and Hegarty's (1959) compendia of voyages, one step removed from primary sources, are convenient but occasionally inaccurate.

The late Charles F. Batchelder began work on this list, drawing his information principally from printed books in his library, the largest collection of published works on the American whaling industry, now at the New Bedford Whaling Museum. After his death I continued compiling this information, for the most part from manuscripts, newspapers and documents. The records may be incomplete from two periods in particular: the decades of the eighteen fifties and eighteen sixties, when much of the Arctic fleet refitted in the Hawaiian Islands; and after the gold rush of 1899, when many small schooners operated from Nome, Alaska. In both cases the documentation of voyages may contain errors or omissions. This list ends in 1910—the end of an era—with the death of the whaling industry and the swift growth of the maritime fur trade in northern Alaska and western Arctic Canada.

COMMERCIAL WINTERING VOYAGES

| <i>Vessel</i> | <i>Rig</i> | <i>Home Port</i> | <i>Master</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| <i>Swallow</i> | brig | Hong Kong | 1850-1851 | St. Lawrence (Lavrentiya) Bay, Siberia | unconfirmed report: trading vessel, lost on return voyage toward Hong Kong |
| <i>Wailua</i> | brig | Hawaii | 1859-1860 | Plover (Provideniya) Bay, Siberia | |
| <i>Cleone</i> | bark | New Bedford | John E. Simmons | Plover (Provideniya) Bay, Siberia | |
| <i>Coral</i> | bark | New Bedford | 1861-1862 Sisson | Plover (Provideniya) Bay, Siberia | |
| <i>Kohola</i> | brig | Hawaii | 1862-1863 Brummerhoff | St. Lawrence (Lavrentiya) Bay, Siberia | Capt. Brummerhoff killed by natives |
| <i>Zoe</i> | bark | Hawaii | Simmons | Probably in Bering Strait region | |
| <i>Hallie Jackson</i> | schooner | San Francisco | 1869-1870 Chapman | Plover (Provideniya) Bay, Siberia | trading vessel |
| <i>Hannah B. Bourne</i> | schooner, brigantine | San Francisco | 1870-1871 Chapman | Plover (Provideniya) Bay, Siberia | trading vessel, abandoned in spring |
| <i>Spy</i> | sloop | | 1887-1888 | Cape Smyth, Point Barrow, Alaska | on shore |
| <i>Spy</i> | sloop | | 1888-1889 | Cape Smyth, Point Barrow, Alaska | on shore |

| <i>Vessel</i> | <i>Rig</i> | <i>Home Port</i> | <i>Master</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|---------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|--|--|
| — | whaleboat | Point Barrow, Alaska | Joseph Tuckfield | Mackenzie Bay, Canada | on shore, reported Mackenzie Bay whaling grounds |
| <i>Nicoline</i> | schooner | San Francisco | 1889-1890 Louis N. Herendeen | Dease Inlet, Alaska | unable to reach Herschel Island |
| <i>Spy</i> | sloop | | | Cape Smyth, Point Barrow, Alaska | on shore |
| <i>Grampus</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | 1890-1891 H. H. Norwood | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Mary D. Hume</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | James A. Tilton | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Nicoline</i> | schooner | San Francisco | Louis N. Herendeen | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Silver Wave</i> | schooner | San Francisco | Peter Bayne | Sea Horse Islands, Alaska | grounded and frozen in |
| <i>Mary D. Hume</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | 1891-1892 James A. Tilton | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Silver Wave</i> | schooner | San Francisco | Peter Bayne | Kasegaluk Lagoon, Icy Cape, Alaska | |
| <i>Balaena</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | 1892-1893 H. H. Norwood | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Grampus</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | Ward P. Vincent | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Narwhal</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | Horace P. Smith | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Newport</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | W. P. S. Porter | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Nicoline</i> | schooner | San Francisco | B. F. Tilton | Marryatt Inlet, Point Hope, Alaska | |
| <i>Silver Wave</i> | schooner | San Francisco | James McKenna | Grantley Harbor, Port Clarence, Alaska | probably under a caretaker |
| <i>Balaena</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | 1893-1894 H. H. Norwood | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |

| <i>Emily Schroeder</i> | ship | San Francisco | Peter Bayne | Marryatt Inlet, Point Hope, Alaska | damaged and grounded in storm October 1893 |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Grampus</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | Ward P. Vincent | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Jeanette</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | Edwin W. Newth | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Kartuk</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | J. A. Wing | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>La Ninfa</i> | schooner | San Francisco | W. J. Robinson | Unknown | |
| <i>Mary D. Hume</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | George B. Leavitt | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Narwhal</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | Horace P. Smith | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Newport</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | James A. Tilton | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Nicoline</i> | schooner | San Francisco | B. F. Tilton | Marryatt Inlet, Point Hope, Alaska | |
| <i>Silver Wave</i> | schooner | San Francisco | Collingham | Marryatt Inlet, Point Hope, Alaska | |
| <i>Alexander</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | F. M. Green | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Betuga</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | Albert C. Sherman | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Fearless</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | James McKenna | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Horatio</i> | bark | San Francisco | Eugene B. Penniman | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Jesse H. Freeman</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | W. P. S. Porter | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>John and Winthrop</i> | bark | San Francisco | A. T. Simmons | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Mary D. Hume</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | George B. Leavitt | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Navarch</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | John A. Cook | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Newport</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | James A. Tilton | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Northern Light</i> | bark | San Francisco | Bernard Cogan | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Rosario</i> | schooner | San Francisco | Edwin Coffin | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Thrasher</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | C. E. Weeks | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Triton</i> | bark | San Francisco | William Hegarty | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |

Capt. Weeks killed by fall into hold

1894-1895

| <i>Vessel</i> | <i>Rig</i> | <i>Home Port</i> | <i>Master</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Wanderer</i> | bark | San Francisco | George W. Porter | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>William Baylies</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | John McInnis | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Alexander</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | F. M. Green | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Balaena</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | H. H. Williams | Balaena Bay, Cape Parry, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Beluga</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | Albert C. Sherman | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Belvedere</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | Joseph A. White-side | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Fearless</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | James McKenna | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Grampus</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | R. J. Cumiskey | Balaena Bay, Cape Parry, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Jeanette</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | Edwin W. Newth | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Jesse H.</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | W. P. S. Porter | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Freeman</i> | bark | San Francisco | A. T. Simmons | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>John and Winthrop</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | J. A. Wing | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Karluk</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | George B. Leavitt | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Mary D. Hume</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | John A. Cook | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Navarch</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | Hartson H. Bodfish | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Newport</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | Hartson H. Bodfish | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Northern Light</i> | bark | San Francisco | John Calloghan | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Wanderer</i> | bark | San Francisco | George W. Porter | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Fearless</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | James McKenna | near Shingle Point, Y.T. | trapped by ice |
| <i>Grampus</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | R. J. Cumiskey | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| <i>Jesse H. Freeman</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | W. P. S. Porter | near King Point, Y.T. | trapped by ice, Captain and half of crew wintered at Herschel Island |
| <i>Mary D. Hume Newport Wanderer</i> | steam brigantine steam barkentine bark | San Francisco San Francisco San Francisco | William Hegarty George B. Leavitt George W. Porter | near Shingle Point, Y.T. Herschel Island, Y.T. Herschel Island, Y.T. | trapped by ice |
| <i>Balaena Beluga</i> | steam bark steam bark | San Francisco San Francisco | 1897-1898 H. H. Williams Hartson H. Bodfish | Langton Bay, N.W.T. Langton Bay, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Belvedere</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | M. V. B. Millard | Peard Bay, Alaska | trapped by ice, rescued crews of <i>Jesse H. Freeman</i> and <i>Orca</i> |
| <i>Etna</i> | schooner | San Francisco | Christian Klenberg | Marryatt Inlet, Point Hope, Alaska | trading and shore whaling |
| <i>Fearless</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | James McKenna | Pitt Point, Alaska | trapped by ice |
| <i>Grampus</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | R. J. Cumiskey | Langton Bay, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Jeanie</i> | steam schooner | San Francisco | P. H. Mason | Cape Halkett, Alaska | trapped by ice, tender to Pacific Steam Whaling Co. ships |
| <i>Mary D. Hume Narwhal Newport Rosario</i> | steam brigantine steam bark steam barkentine schooner | San Francisco San Francisco San Francisco San Francisco | William Hegarty James A. Tilton George B. Leavitt Edwin Coffin | Herschel Island, Y.T. Langton Bay, N.W.T. Pitt Point, Alaska Point Barrow, Alaska | trapped by ice trapped by ice, crushed July 1898 |
| <i>Wanderer</i> | bark | San Francisco | George W. Porter | Herschel Island, Y.T. | blocked by ice near Barter Island, Alaska, forced to return to Herschel Island |
| <i>Beluga</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | 1898-1899 Hartson H. Bodfish | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |

| <i>Vessel</i> | <i>Rig</i> | <i>Home Port</i> | <i>Master</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|---|--|--|
| <i>Mary D. Hume</i> | steam brigantine schooner | San Francisco --- | William Hegarty Christian Klen- genberg | Herschel Island, Y.T. near Cape Seppings, Alaska | trading and shore whaling |
| <i>1899-1900</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Balaena</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | H. H. Williams | Langton Bay, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Fearless</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | James McKenna | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Grampus</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | George B. Leavitt | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Helen</i> | schooner | | Christian Klen- genberg | Elson Lagoon, Point Bar- row, Alaska | trading and shore whaling |
| <i>Narwhal</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | R. J. Cumiskey | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>1900-1901</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Betuga</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | Hartson H. Bod- fish | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Bowhead</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | John A. Cook | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Helen</i> | schooner | | Christian Klen- genberg | Collinson Point, Camden Bay, Alaska | lost in autumn gale |
| <i>Narwhal</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | R. J. Cumiskey | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Penelope</i> | schooner | San Francisco | H. E. Huffman | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Sophia Suther- land</i> | schooner (3 masted) | San Francisco | Murray | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | sold to Eskimos. Later wrecked in autumn gale |
| <i>1901-1902</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Altair</i> | schooner | San Francisco | William Mogg | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Penelope</i> | schooner | San Francisco | H. E. Huffman | Probably at Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Olga</i> | schooner | San Francisco | James McKenna | ?Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>1902-1903</i> | | | | | |
| <i>Narwhal</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | George B. Leavitt | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |

COMMERCIAL WINTERING VOYAGES

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| <i>Olga</i> | schooner | San Francisco | James McKenna | Herschel Island, Y.T. | converted to gasoline auxiliary, 1905 sold to Eskimos, probably Kunuk, Kakotak, Ilavinerk, Tulugak. Crew & cargo transferred to <i>William Baylies</i> |
| <i>Penelope</i> | schooner | | | ?Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Bonanza</i> | schooner | San Francisco | 1903-1904 William Mogg | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Bowhead</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | John A. Cook | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Narwhal</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | George B. Leavitt | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Penelope</i> | schooner | | | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Betuga</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | 1904-1905 R. J. Cumiskey | Langton Bay, N.W.T. | wrecked at King Point, Y.T. autumn 1905 |
| <i>Bonanza</i> | schooner | San Francisco | William Mogg | Langton Bay, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Bowhead</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | John A. Cook | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Herman</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | W. S. Varnum | Langton Bay, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Karluk</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | A. H. McGregor | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Penelope</i> | schooner | | | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| ? <i>Kate Smith</i> | schooner | San Francisco | | unknown | unconfirmed report |
| <i>Alexander</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | 1905-1906 James A. Tilton | Herschel Island, Y.T. | trapped by ice |
| <i>Betuga</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | R. J. Cumiskey | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | trapped by ice, intended to winter at Herschel Island |
| <i>Betvedere</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | S. F. Cottle | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | trapped by ice |
| <i>Bowhead</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | John A. Cook | Herschel Island, Y.T. | trapped by ice |
| <i>Charles Hanson</i> | gasoline schooner | San Francisco | James McKenna | Toker Point, N.W.T. | trapped by ice, probably intended to winter at Herschel Island |

| <i>Vessel</i> | <i>Rig</i> | <i>Home Port</i> | <i>Master</i> | <i>Location</i> | <i>Remarks</i> |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|
| <i>Herman</i> | steam barkentine | San Francisco | W. S. Varnum | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | trapped by ice, intended to winter at Herschel Island |
| <i>Jeanette</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | Edwin W. Newth | Herschel Island, Y.T. | trapped by ice |
| <i>Karluk</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | A. H. McGregor | Herschel Island, Y.T. | trapped by ice |
| <i>Narwhal</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | George B. Leavitt | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | trapped by ice, intended to winter at Herschel Island |
| <i>Olga</i> | gasoline schooner | San Francisco | Christian Klengen- berg, mate | Bell Island, Victoria Island, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Penelope</i> | schooner | | | Herschel Island, Y.T. | |
| <i>Thrasher</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | William F. Macomber | Herschel Island, Y.T. | trapped by ice |
| <i>Narwhal</i> | steam bark | San Francisco | | | |
| <i>Olga</i> | gasoline schooner | San Francisco | | | |
| <i>Penelope</i> | schooner | | | | |
| <i>Ivy</i> | schooner | San Francisco | | | |
| <i>Karluk</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | | | |
| <i>Olga</i> | gasoline schooner | San Francisco | | | |
| <i>Challenge</i> | schooner | San Francisco | | | |
| <i>Ivy</i> | schooner | San Francisco | | | |

1906-1907

George B. Leavitt
James McKenna

Herschel Island, Y.T.

Elson Lagoon, Point Bar-
row, AlaskaProbably Herschel Is-
land, Y.T.lost September 1907 at Shin-
gle Point, Y.T.

1907-1908

Christian Klengen-
bergElson Lagoon, Point Bar-
row, Alaska

Herschel Island, Y.T.

Walker Bay, Victoria Is-
land, N.W.T.

1908-1909

C. T. Pedersen

Elson Lagoon, Point Bar-
row, Alaska

Point Barrow, Alaska

lost in ice in winter

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Olga</i> | gasoline schooner | San Francisco | William Mogg | Cape Halkett, Alaska | wrecked autumn 1909 at Nome, Alaska |
| <i>Rosie H.</i> | schooner | San Francisco | Fritz Wolki | Flaxman Island, Alaska | |
| <i>Argo</i> | gasoline yawl | Seattle | Ernest deK. Lef- fingwell | Flaxman Island, Alaska | exploring and shore whal- ing |
| <i>Homely Hip- opotamus</i> | scow | | Christian Klen- genberg | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Karluk</i> | steam brigantine | San Francisco | S. F. Cottle | Baillie Islands, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Rosie H.</i> | schooner | San Francisco | Fritz Wolki | Booth Islands, Cape Parry, N.W.T. | |
| <i>Teddy Bear</i> | schooner | | Joseph Bernard | Barter Island, Alaska | trading vessel |

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank Mr. Richard C. Kugler, Director, Old Dartmouth Historical Society, Dr. Paul Fenimore Cooper, Jr., and Dr. Alan Cooke for their help and critical assistance. The United States Naval Arctic Research Laboratory provided logistical support near Barrow, Alaska.

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