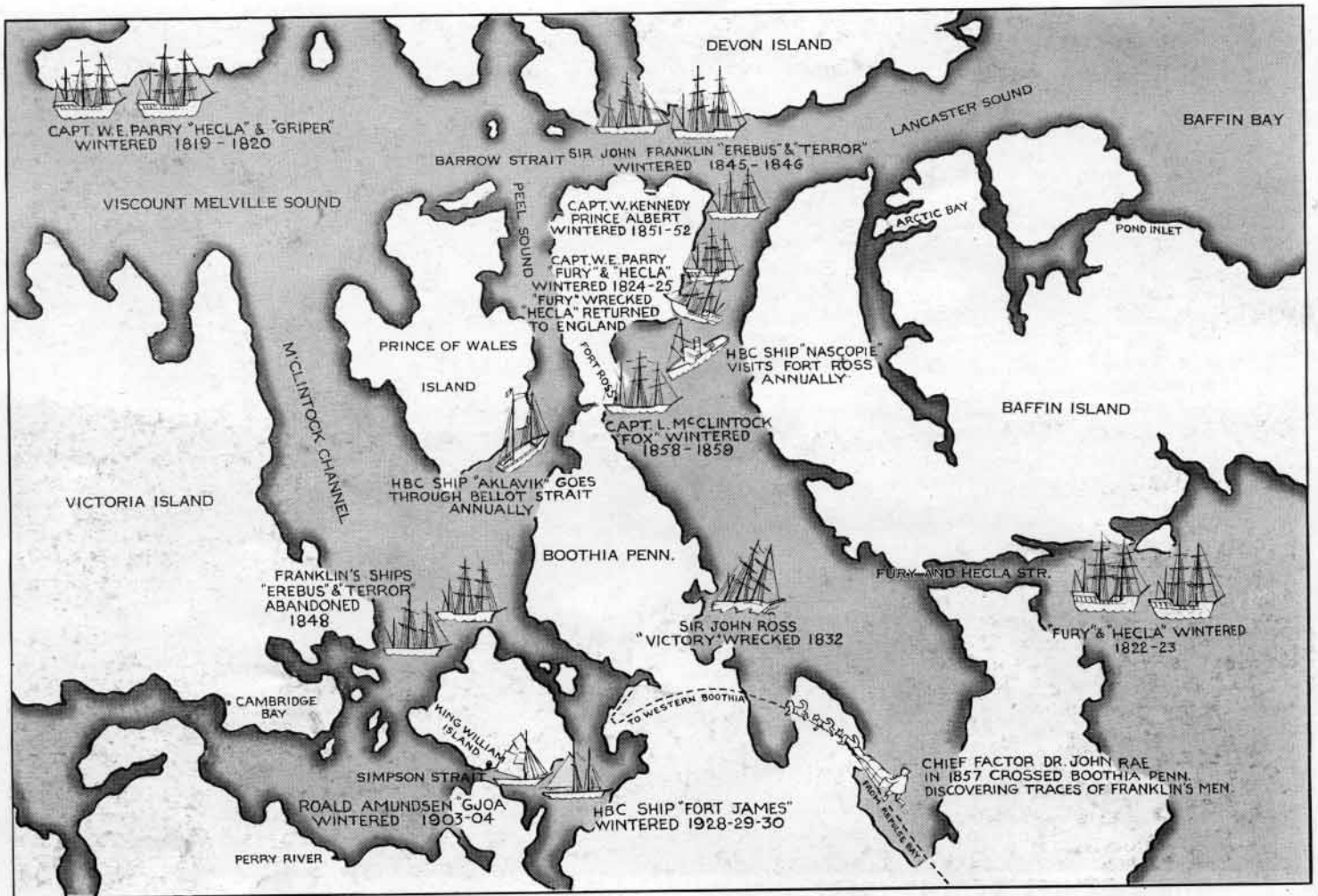


**DOWN PRINCE REGENT INLET**

## **FORT ROSS AND THE NORTH WEST PASSAGE**

Off Prince Regent Inlet, at the mouth of Bellot Strait is Fort Ross. It is a region dotted with the graves of men and ships lost in the centuries long search for the North West Passage. By the terms of its Royal Charter, the Hudson's Bay Company undertook to discover "in the North west part of America" a new passage "into the South Sea." Such Company men as John Rae and Thomas Simpson—to name only two—made their contributions to the Arctic map. Not until 1928 did a Company ship, the small Fort James, travel from the Eastern Arctic to King William Island on the west. The route lay to the north and west of Somerset Island, the same used by Roald Amundsen, first man to make the Passage in 1903-6. In 1937 two Company ships, the Nascopie from the east and the Aklavik from the west, met in Bellot Strait and built Fort Ross post above the most northern tip of the continent.



## SHIPS THAT ATTEMPTED THE PASSAGE



SHERIFF HARBOUR, WHERE JOHN ROSS'S "VICTORY" WAS ABANDONED

This map of Canada's central Arctic shows the positions reached by some of the major expeditions in search of the Passage. Capt. W. E. Parry in 1819 reached the farthest west by sailing through Lancaster Sound, Barrow Strait, and anchoring in Winter Harbour on Melville Island where ice blocked his way. In 1823-24 he tried to pass through Fury and Hecla Strait only to meet more ice. Sir John Franklin followed Parry's route to Cape Walker, but turned south by Peel Sound and Franklin Strait to be hemmed in by ice west of King William Island. Sir John Ross's "Victory" got through Lancaster Sound, Prince Regent Inlet, missed Bellot Strait, and wintered in Felix Harbour

Lorene Squire



BELLOT STRAIT

in 1829-30. The "Victory," never clear of ice again, was abandoned in Sheriff Harbour in 1832. The men were rescued after they had made their way in open boats to Cape York and Navy Board Inlet. During this expedition James Ross discovered the Magnetic Pole, Matty Island, King William Island, and named Victory and Franklin Points. In 1852 Capt. W. Kennedy and Lieut. Rene Bellot wintered on Somerset Island, and discovered Bellot Strait. Capt. Leopold M'Clintock in 1858-59 made five attempts to sail through Bellot Strait. In 1857 Dr. John Rae, of the Hudson's Bay Company, crossed Boothia Peninsula by dog team from Repulse Bay.



JAMES ROSS PLANTS THE BRITISH FLAG AT THE MAGNETIC POLE

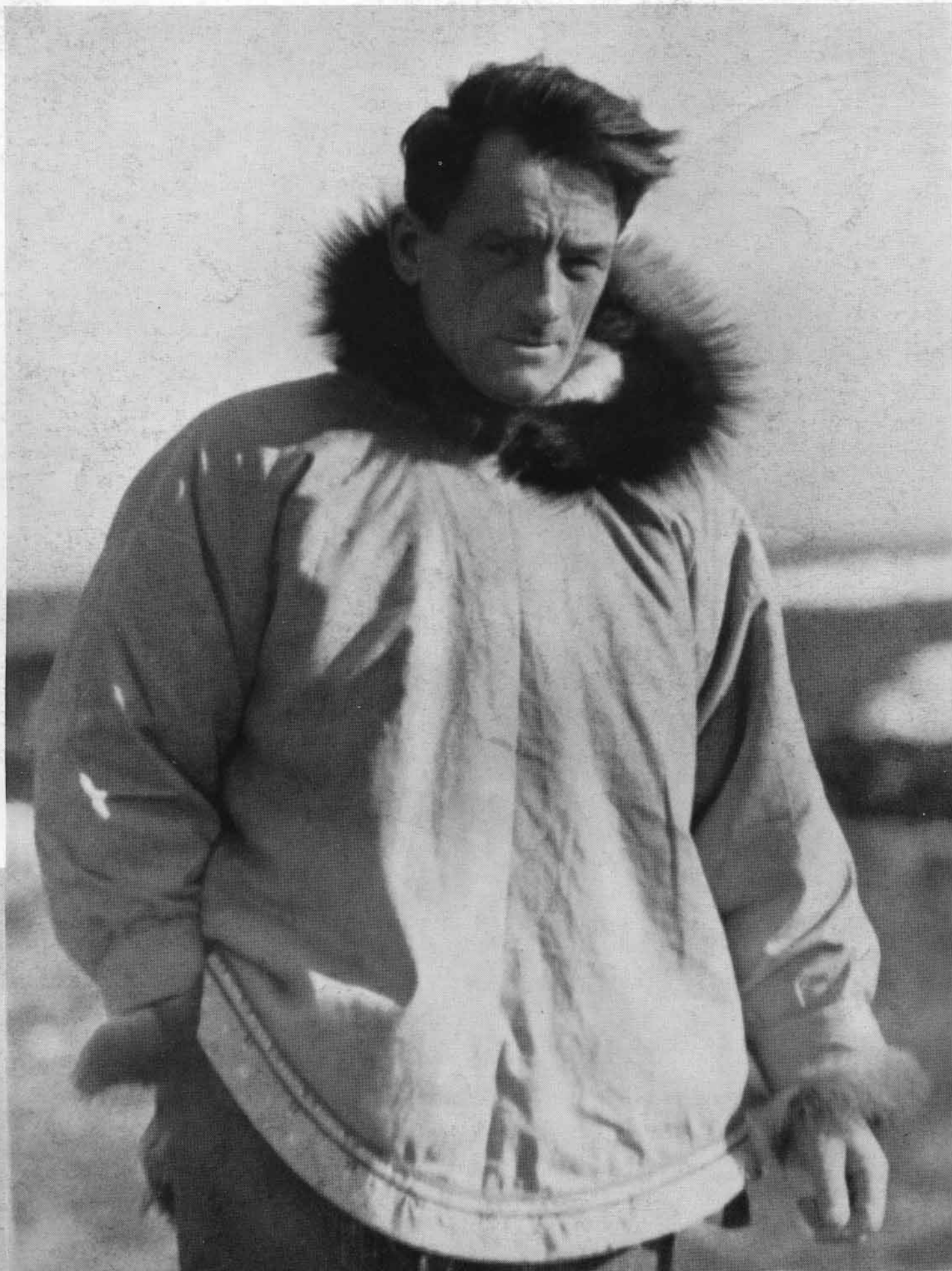


ESKIMOS SEE THE SHIP'S ARRIVAL

*Lorene Lynde*

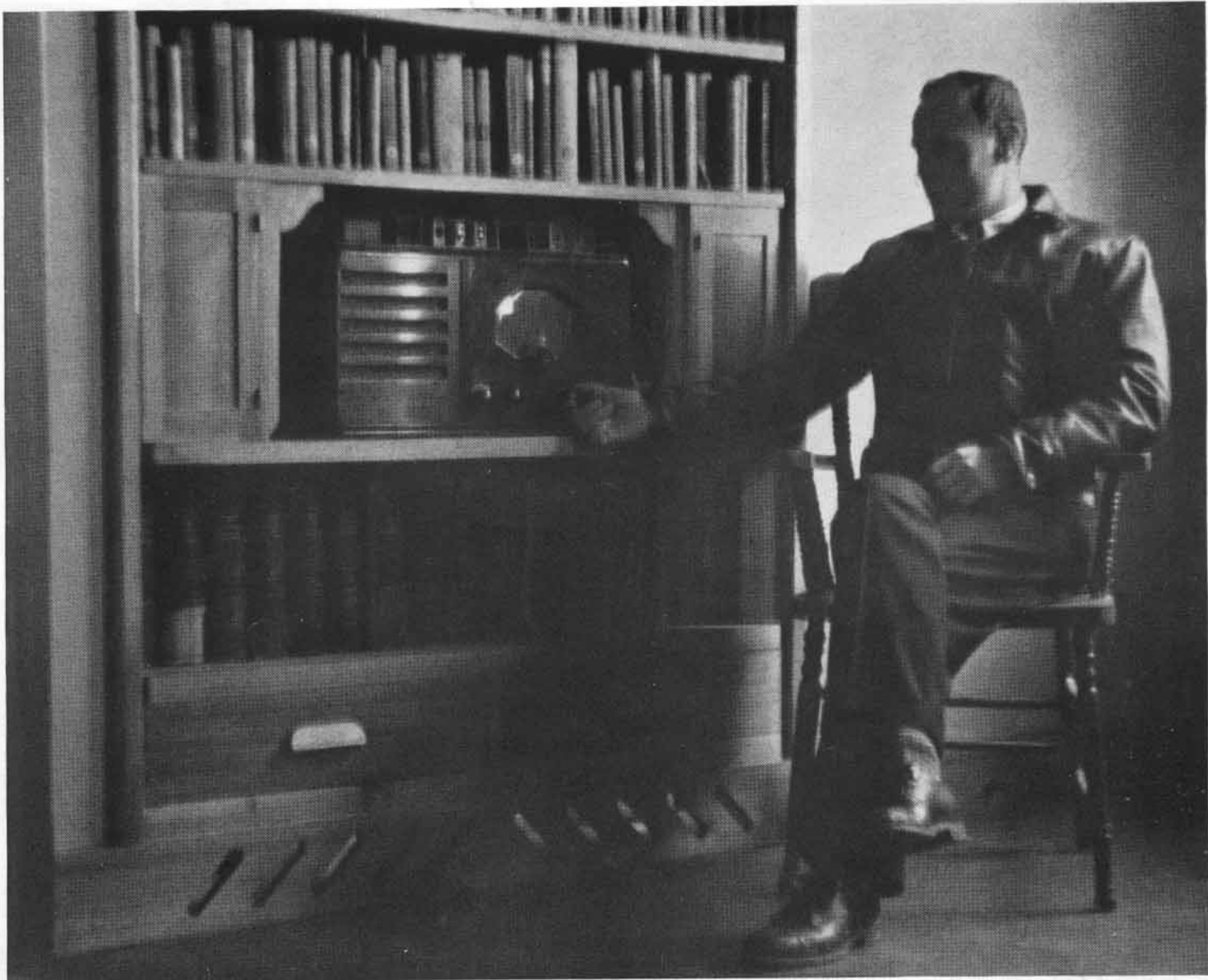


**BRINGING SUPPLIES ASHORE**



**CHIEF TRADER L. A. LEARMONTH**

Fort Ross on Bellot Strait was his dream.



*Loren Squire*

### THREE DIVERSIONS—

Donald Goodyear built the bookcase. The books went north by the Nascopie. Fort Ross is Company Radio Station CY7L.

### THE PROUDEST POSSESSION

Is a portrait of Sir John Ross for whom the post is named. It is framed in wood from the "Victory," which he commanded.





## THE POST HOUSE

Red and white, built in 1937. The windmill charges the radio batteries.

*Lorene Squire*

## THE TRADING STORE

Unfinished when the ship left in 1938.

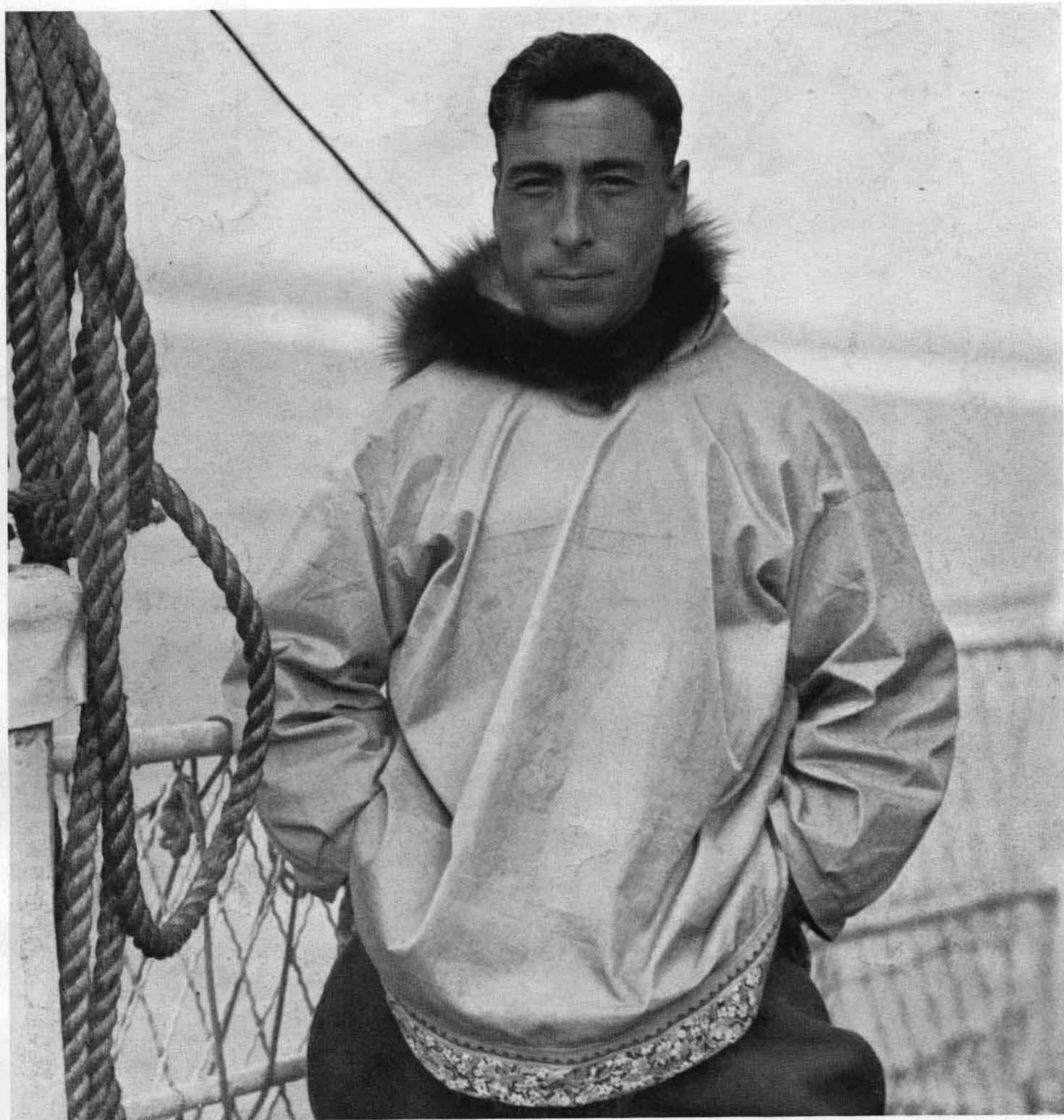






**THE FLAGPOLE BY THE WAREHOUSE**

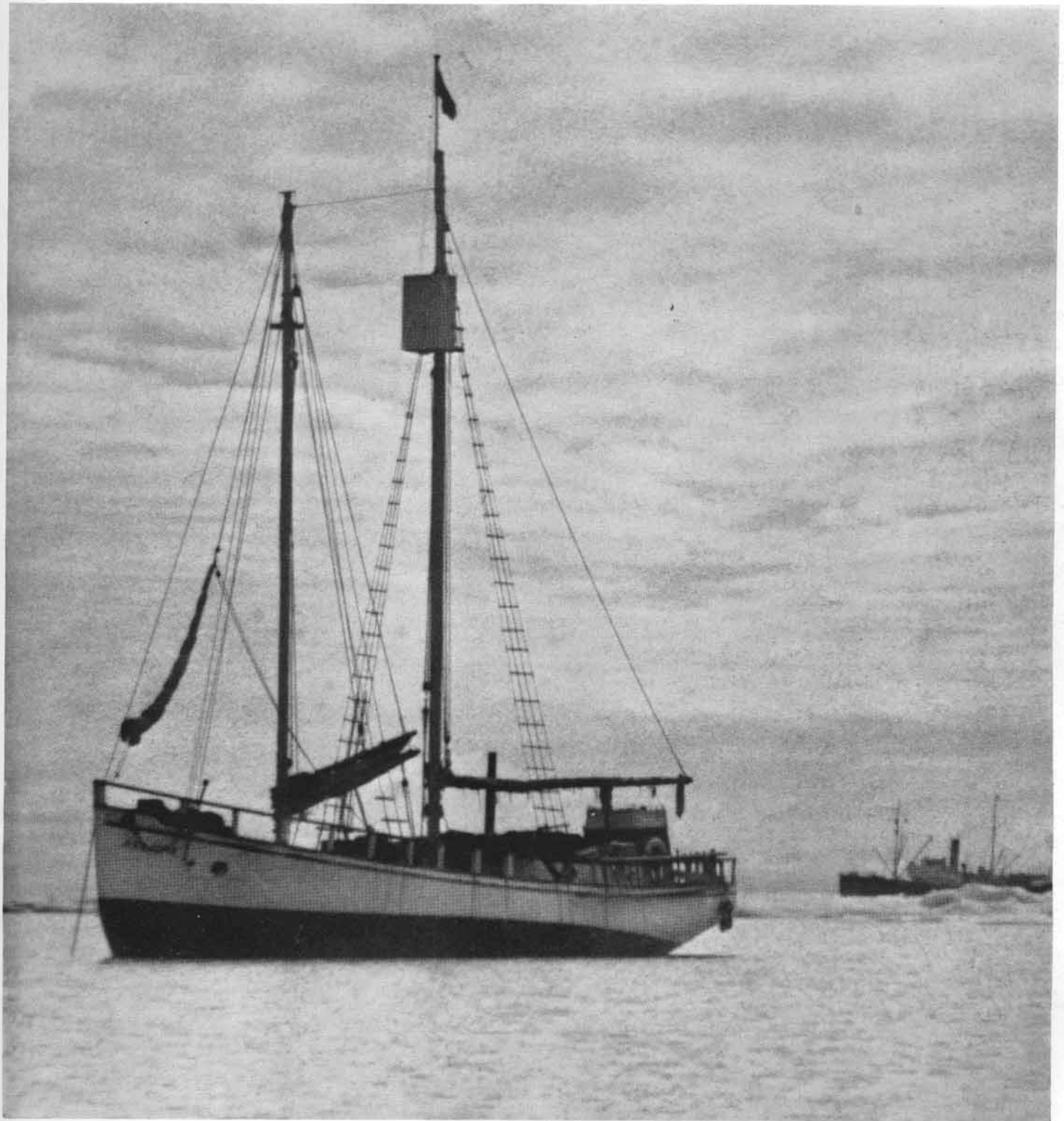
Was made from the yardarm of the "Pelican,"  
former supply ship to posts in the Bay.



## **PATSY KLENGENBERG**

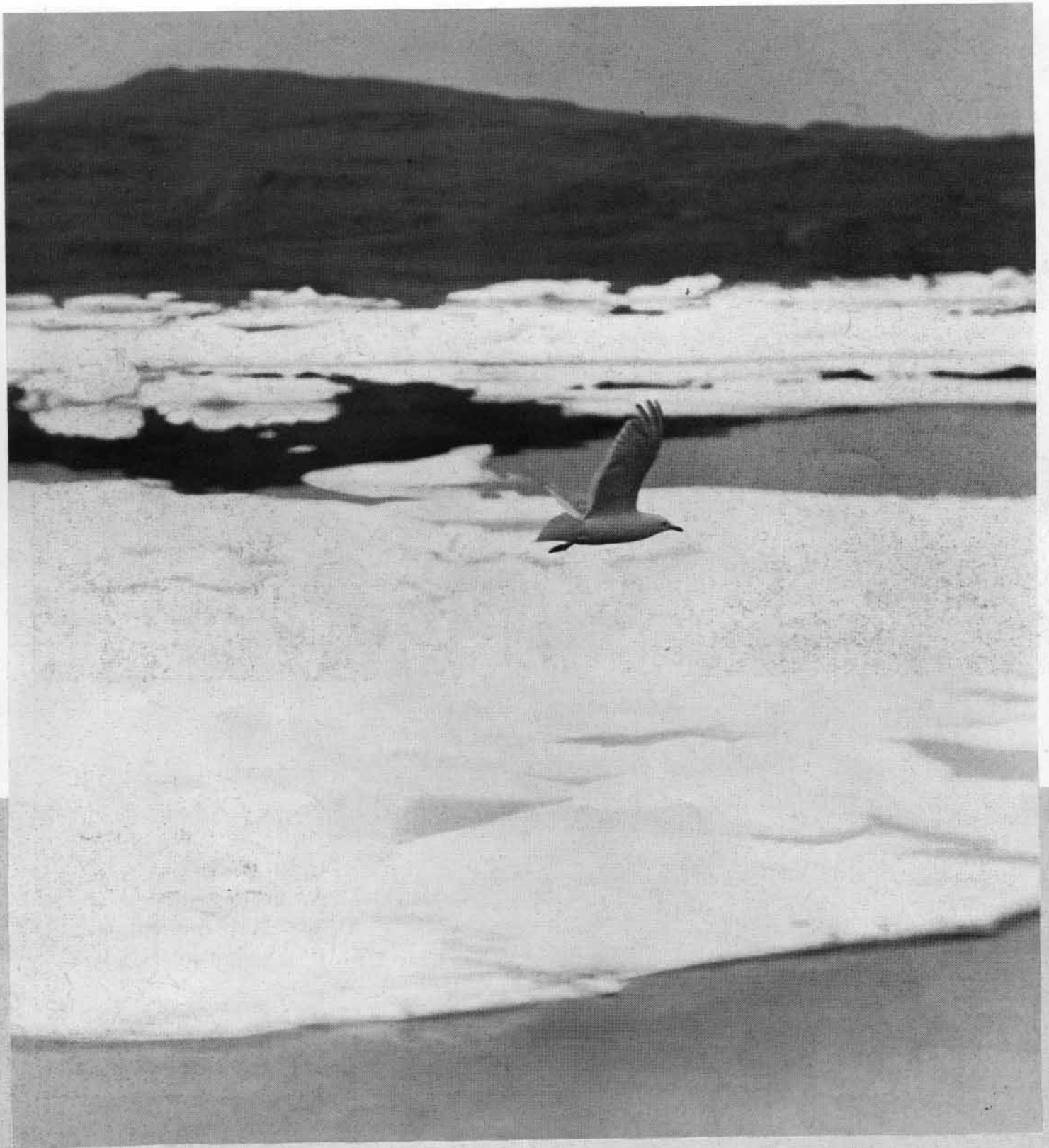
Trapper, hunter, sailor, engineer and storied figure of the north. Bellot Strait holds no terrors for him. As well as being skipper of the Aklavik, he operates his own trading post on Wilmot Island far to the west.

*Lorene Squire*



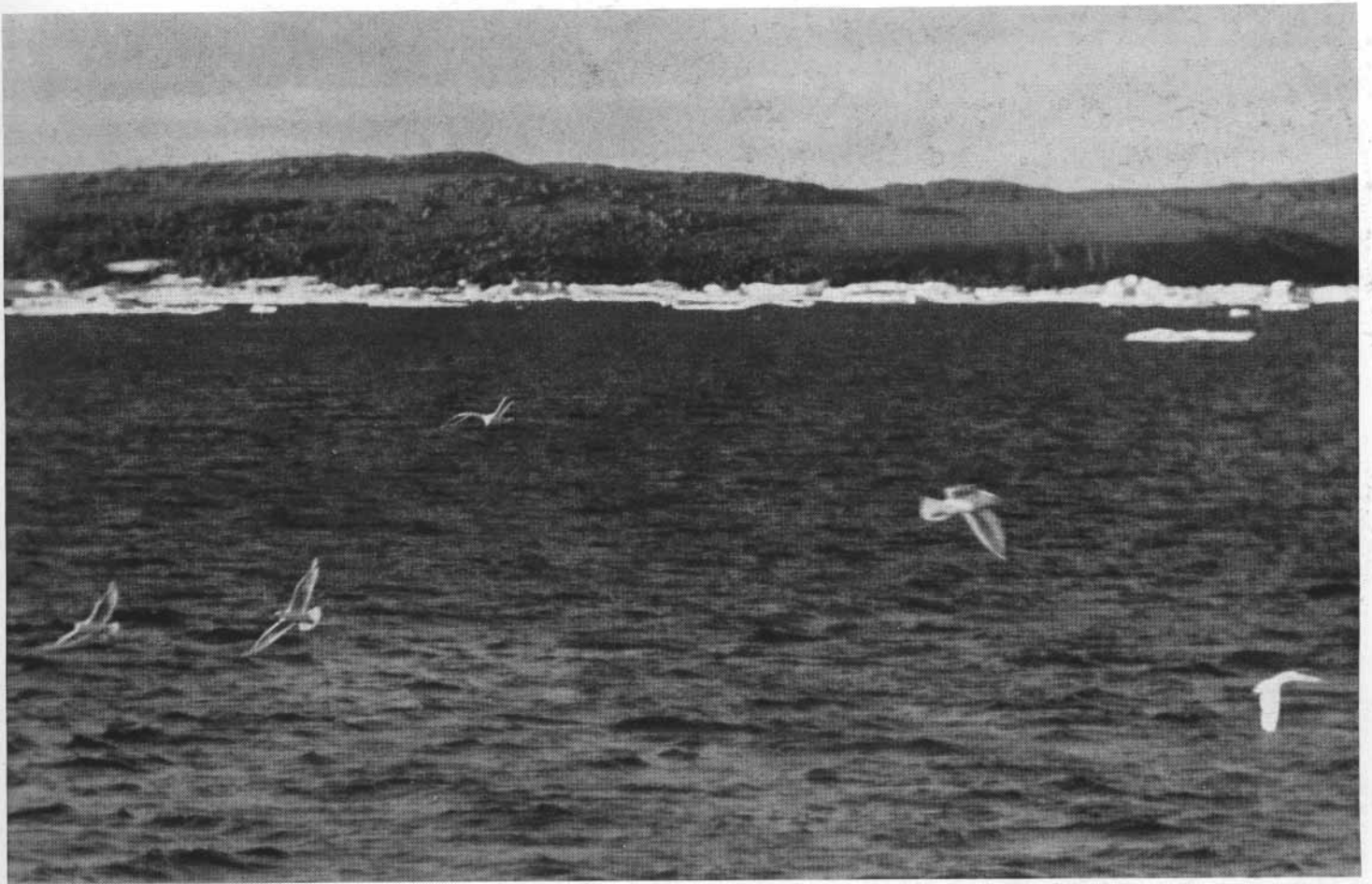
### **H B C'S SCHOONER "AKLAVIK"**

Supply ship for Cambridge Bay and King William Island. Built at Fort Smith on the Mackenzie River, she has since navigated the trickiest portions of travelled Arctic Ocean routes. In 1937, captained by Post Manager E. J. (Scotty) Gall, she helped make the Passage.



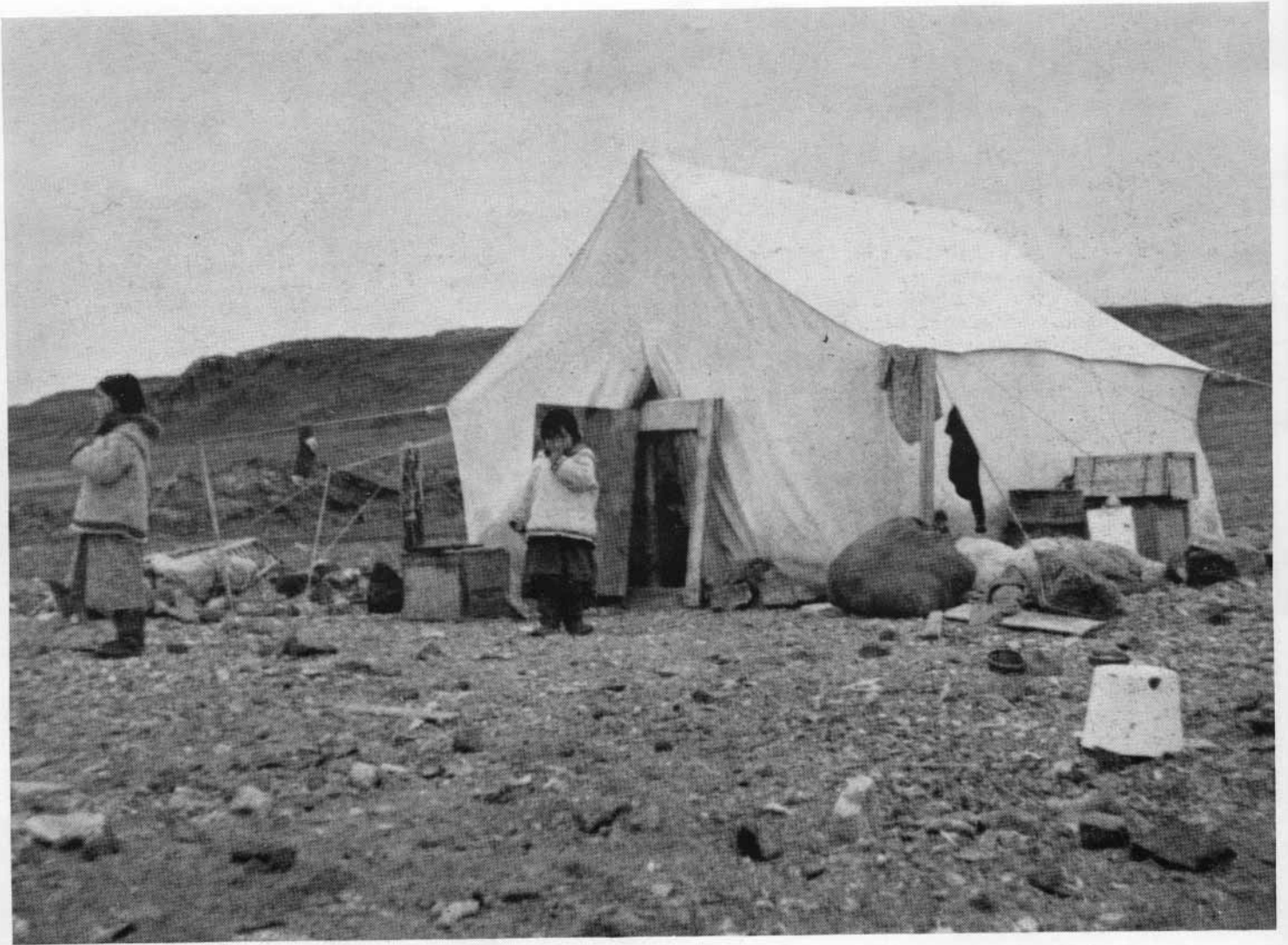
A GULL IN DEPOT BAY

*Lorene Squire*



## IVORY GULLS

A true picture though they look  
strangely unreal in the northern light.



**SUMMER ENCAMPMENT OF ESKIMOS AT FORT ROSS**

*Lorene Squire*



**SHIP TIME IS OVER FOR ANOTHER YEAR**