

# “We still talk Eskimo...”

To the editor:

When the wind is from the north for a month or so, they say that the polar bears should be seen close around. So it has been, this winter, the wind has been from the north, north, north. Just the other day someone got a mother bear and her cub! Also just yesterday another man came home with one.

Now a days, people use snow machines and hondas to go about a lot. Men go hunting with them, too.

We still talk Eskimo among our people but for the new comers, boy, that english speaking come so helpful. And the writing, I just go for that.

When I was a little girl back in 1920 or 30's, my father use to take us, his family, to the other end of the island we live on, *Sivuqaq* the english name of *Sivuqaq* is St. Lawrence Is. on Bering Sea. There at *Tamniq* and *Sivaaghet* we then lived July til March. He like to go there for fox trapping but would come back for whaling and other hunting.

When we start going from our home in Gambell, there be some men from our relatives helping us and sometimes



women, too. It would take us two days journey by boats with motors. We then over night at Savoonga another village, *Sivunqaq* in our language. Then from there we would travel another day's journey by open top boat. He had walrus-hide boat alright but he also got a wooden one like everyone else were getting from white man that use to come around with his ship. During that time my father got a nice modern building with windows, upstairs and stoves and things like that. There were many families getting homes like that. Before those we lived in driftwood walled houses with walrus-hide top and reindeer skin for inner room with seal oil lamps made of clay. I was born in a home like that. I lived with my grandparents a lot, *Iqmaluga* and *Aghnaghaghpak*.

Grace Siwooko