

# GAMBELL NEWS

By GRACE SLWOOKO  
Gambell Correspondent

More than a month ago, I went to Anchorage for Bilingual work with Roger Silook from here, St. Lawrence Island. First my ticket was not found at Wiens in Nome, so I had to wait a few days. Then I went when it was found. Over there at Bilingual center I wrote a few Eskimo stories from here in Siberian Yupik, my language, for our high schools. There were many others from different places doing school materials in their language for their schools.

I stayed with my relatives there. After a week we took our journey home. Upon arriving in Nome, there were many things going on at the front street and in the terminal. At the terminal there were a whole lot of people when we got in just a large crowd, some were leaving on the jet that I came in on. After we claimed our baggage there were some people that offered to take Roger Silook and me to town. Just as we were getting there, the last dogteam on Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race was arriving, so we just agreed to go down to the front street when the couple offered. Excitedly the crowd waited in cold and snowy evening many people with cameras. We watched him arriving.

In Nome I was held by the storm over the weekend. Excitedly many of my friends told me what happened during this time. First the governor's representative asked me very surprisingly when she saw me, "Do you know who left on the plane you came in on?"

I said "No." I also asked her, "Who went on this plane."

She said, "Bela."

Oh, I was very disappointed as Bela Hammond is the governor's wife and she comes to Nome when the dog teams on Iditarod Trail arrive. And as years before, when Bela was 8th grade at Aliknegik near Dillingham, Alaska I was in the same school. Only I was not 8th grade, I was taking some high school subjects and not certain what grade, the church school was helping me with my education. I was just wanting education so I can learn how to write books, but anyway, Bela was there, how happy and excited we were last year when she first came to meet the dog teams on the Iditarod Trail and at the finishing spot in Nome. How happy we were there at the Mission School back in those days during the 1940's. Although it was only a few months of our knowing each other it meant lots to us. It was first time we saw each other in over 20 years. What many things we told each other. As some of my older kids were grown up already, there was much to tell. but this time we didn't get to see each other it was to bad as she was in that large crowd at the terminal when we arrived from Anchorage, coming home after being at the bilingual Center, writing some Eskimo stories in Siberian Yupik.

## St. Lawrence Island

Out in Bering Sea, great and vast,  
is an island inhabited since past.

Great and large island it is, in size and history.  
also in beauty and solitary.

Cold and frozen it may be,  
but its comforts are great in drawing you can see.