

Kutchin Indian Tales—

Vutchyakyitzuk Had Something to Do on Why There are Black Foxes

(From Chalkyitsik Newspaper)

Vutchyakyitzuk had killed some ducks and geese, and decided to roast them. He built a fire, and fixed the ducks and geese to roast.

He decided to go to the lake while they were cooking. On the lake shore he met the fox, who was limping along.

"Brother, what is the matter with you?" asked Vutchyakyitzuk.

"Oh, I have this sore on my leg, and I cannot walk very well," answered the fox.

"I have many ducks and geese roasting," Vutchyakyitzuk told the fox. "I will race you back to the fire. Whoever gets there first can eat all the ducks and geese."

"Oh no, my brother, I cannot do this because I cannot run," answered the fox.

"I will go the long way around. Then we will have an even chance," said Vutchyakyitzuk. So the fox agreed to try the race that way.

They stood together on the shore and got ready to run. They said go at the same time and began to race.

Vutchyakyitzuk ran away very fast. He looked back quickly and laughed at the poor fox limping along.

When Vutchyakyitzuk reached the fire, though, he was very, very surprised to find that there were only legs left to eat.

The fox's leg hadn't really been sore. He had run ahead as soon as Vutchyakyitzuk was out of sight.

He got to the fire, and hid all of the parts of the ducks and geese except the legs. The fox left the legs in the ashes.

Finally the fox came limping up to where Vutchyakyitzuk was waiting. He looked very tired and looked as if it had taken him a long time to get to the fire. Since there were only legs left, that was all they had to eat.

The next day, Vutchyakyitzuk found the fox asleep on the shore. The fox's belly

was bulging and he was very fat.

Vutchyakyitzuk began to think about what had happened the day before and he thought, "oh brother, I will fix you!"

He took a lot of grass and piled it around the sleeping fox. Then he set the grass on fire and watched it burn the fox up.

After the fire went out, he could find no bones, no fur, nothing. So Vutchyakyitzuk thought the fox was dead and gone.

The next day, however, he saw the fox running along the shore across the lake. He was not dead, but he was black all over.

They say that is why there are black foxes now.

Men and women behind bars are able to share in the blessings of Christmas through The Salvation Army, whose blue uniforms penetrate prison walls. Those who are enabled to send personal gifts to their children. And experienced Salvation Army officers help them prepare for the day when they will return to their families.