

Gambell Hunters on Ice and Getting Game

By GRACE SLWOOKE
Gambell, Alaska

GAMBELL—Like all the time, menfolks at Gambell go out on the ice and watch for seals and walrus so much.

Everyday, there is someone out on the ice, either in pursuit of a herd of walrus or watching at the open water. There is not many times they come home with nothing.

Sometimes a man is alone when he watches for seals by the open water. Rugged ice moves around making open water here and there—the deep blue sea.

Always there is some live ani-

mal, but we watch for the hunters to catch them and use them for food and garment. Only the blubber is thrown away now as we have better heat and lights in the homes.

Years ago, we used to use this blubber for light and heat in the homes.

There are now some people that came and befriended our animals and take them out to the zoos. At first it was very odd to see our seals and walrus going into the airplanes!

Our people at first had superstitious feelings about this but that is gone now. We can get seals anytime in springtime and

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sell them to the zoo-people without fear.

So there on the ice watching for animals, an Eskimo can be as if he is in a trance, giving songs and thoughts about ice, sea, the sky and all the sweet, cool atmosphere comes from them all.

And there the songs were sung with much meaning although the Eskimo never knew how to write. And so it was down the ages.

Eskimo life can be beautiful if one lives it and sees it.

But great new things that come along are wonderful. For instance, photography, tape recording, electric lights and snow machines are so much like miracles we like so well.

We are always thankful for the schools we like.

No one has seen a polar bear, yet, this year.