



## **Gambell has no trees, but there is a lot of wood**

**by Grace Siwooko**  
for the Tundra Times

**GAMBELL** — There are no trees on St. Lawrence Island, the island out in the Bering Sea.

I live here on this island. I'm one of the people who has always lived here. Trees are one of the things we never see.

We've heard about them. In our Eskimo stories some told about them, back in Siberia.

Then, later on when the school started on our island, we read about them. I really felt some when one girl and I traveled to Anchorage back in the early 1940s. We stopped at McGrath for three days. And it was there we saw our first trees. Boy, something interesting there keep us from being homesick.

We have wood on the island, even though there are no trees. There is a way the Creator has for His creation. Nice twigs and large trees come ashore from the sea!

There are nice outdoor bleached pieces of wood, small and all shapes all on the sea shore. We can just gather them for wood stoves.

Women use them to boil meats outdoors a lot, in my childhood days.

They use those nice pieces of wood for keeping the fire going.

All around on the shore of the island there is wood, some places a mile or longer or shorter — like a forest, only not standing, sideways.

People even build houses and many things with this wood that drifts in from the sea.