

# Happenings I Never Want to Forget

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Years ago around 1930's I was a teen-ager, oh boy, was it ever so good. In those days, nothing seem to bother me, even when I ran to many places I never thought of being tired. I guess I was pretty healthy, I never had pains like I have now. One thing I did, I stayed out lots, I guess that was what kept me healthy. It was so hard for me to keep my hands not getting to brown from the sun, but they always start getting brown as soon as the sun gets up higher and higher. I like white hands, it is so funny what the girls might want. One thing that I get too fat and I never liked that, every-time I notice my clothes getting to tight I would say quickly, I won't anymore, but soon I would find myself eating again, so it was so hard for me to keep slim, which I never was.

There was a place at the north side of the village near the sea, where the snow stay without melting to way into summer or it finally is gone during the month of July. That was where we used to get snow every day to make our drinking water cold, especially when one have elderly folks at home, they like to have their water cold. So to give water to my grandparents like they want, I always got snow from this place. Its name is Aatnequisiq. There is a little path, I use to walk on to get snow, not too far not even a 1/4 mile, but its near the sea. Sometimes there would be fog, over the sea, sometimes heavy, sometimes only in patches, so pleasantly I would hear many many sounds of auklets the fowl of the sea, as I fill by bucket with wet heavy snow. In those days there were not too many modern things yet.

In those days we always make our own clothes, there even was a certain kind of mukluk we use in the summer. We always new. we even make dresses and parkys. When it is going to be some gathering like 4th of July celebration and Christmas program, there is so much sewing to do, especially for the girls and mothers. We enjoyed making things.

During July, the freighters would come then this is another work we like unloading and carrying stuff to the store. Men do the unloading from the ship to the shore, from there everybody work. There would be piles of boxes of pilot bread, tea, sugar, flour, and dried fruit. There were many things the store get, but not the freezables, so directors always like to order dry goods especially materials to make pretty dresses and parky covers for the women and girls. It would take two or three days to unload when it is not windy. Unloading has always been so much fun.

My grandaprents would tell about the people before my time. They said that my father's own father has been dead for years he was out fishing in a skin boat in the summertime with three other men when something happened so that they never come home. The summer whale may have hit their boat and caused all of them to drown no one has ever seem them ever since, there were not to far from the shore, when they were there. And his name was Kingugwaaghaq who is the son of Kunuka and Mezaka. They said that Kunaka's brother is Qugwaaren who married Avalek and thay had five sons, who are Pusea, Kunaka, Ataayaghhaq, Aghnilu, and Tatugi. These men are the fathers of many families here in Gambell now. He also is the cousin of another man named Saniq, who is the father of many families here, like Siliks, Apangaluqs and some at Savoonga, which are many people also. My mother came of them. He is also the cousin of another man named Pelaasi, who is the father of Tuusaq the father of my grandfather Iqmalugwa by second marriage and the cousin of my own grandfather. He is also the brother of a man named Aghilluk, the father of Paazak and Angatenganwan, who are the brothers of Singlenga who is the mother of many families, now. My grandfathers sisters Aqaa and Tupaa-nga, who are the mothers of large groups of people and mostly at Savoonga, another village which just started, not to far back. Paazak also have large groups of people and Angqatenganwan have people here to now.