

# Miserable Conditions

## *Can Also Bring Good, Useful Things*

By GRACE SLWOOKO  
Gambell Correspondent

GAMBELL — Fall time here in Gambell, Alaska is frozen ground, high winds and rain. It rains so hard that it begins to get water on the ice. That makes it really slippery.

Miserable as it may be, we enjoy it all the time as there is always some good there, like

cleaning heavy, soaked snow for washing the seal skins, and high winds bring lots of sea foods that wash up on the shore.

But when the waves are really big, we begin to be frightened this time of year because of possible floods. It was this bad when two houses were washed out more than 50 years ago. Nothing that bad has happened since that time.

But this fall, it was bad enough to cause some flooding in the basement of one home near the north shore. That was Winfred James' home.

Our well water was salty, too. We are glad it is no more like that now.

We are always glad when the ice comes, then there are more nice, cold, calm weather. It brings clear weather.

Thanksgiving dinner is always a very enjoyable time of the year. It is during fall weather that we would fix a community dinner for the whole village. The people would get together to the church for this dinner.

Some women of the village always fix dinner of reindeer stew, doughnuts, biscuits and tea or coffee. But this year, there was a new dish. We fixed a potato salad.

When more and more young folks are out to schools in different places outside of our island home, they begin to learn new recipes. Potato salad is a new one. We like it.