

Teaching alphabet with birds in Gambell

GAMBELL

By Grace Siwooko

Tundra Times Correspondent

This year I taught Yupik in the 3rd and 4th grade room in the B.I.A. school. There were 21 children when the school first started last fall.

One boy went away, so ever since then there are 20 in this room. It is Aghvegahgetaq that went away. Whole winter, we have been working on lessons to write our language.

But since we still talk Eskimo in our homes, it is different. Children just have to learn to write the sounds.

We talk two languages on St. Lawrence Island, Eskimo and English. So everybody know the names of animals and birds here.

So last winter the 4th grade children and I tried writing all the names of the birds and fowl of St. Lawrence Island, we know. We came up with 38! And one little girl, whose name is Uqfiitaaq, alphabetized them.

And, of course, some have English for them, like alpa is murr, anipa is owl, akmalighaq is a cousin to an auklet and so forth. Here is the list.

UQFIITAAQ 38

A

1. alpa
2. anipa
3. akmalighaq
4. aglekesegaq
5. aqergliq
6. aghqulluk
7. amaaghaq

E

1. eghqaaq

I

1. iuuuya

K

1. kumlulqugnak
2. kangghwaak
3. kaputaghaq

L

1. leglilleq

M

1. meteghilluk
2. metghaq

N

1. naghuya
2. nangqwalek

NG

1. ngelqaaq
2. nglikaa

P

1. pagrugaaq

Q

1. qagguniq
2. qawaagpk
3. quprughaq
4. qugesliinak
5. quuk

S

1. suklugraq
2. sukilpaq
3. sagelmak
4. sughmeghaq
5. sipelaaghaq
6. satelgaq
7. samseghhaghaq

T

1. tekeyiighaq
2. teraterliq
3. turiik

Y

1. yugayu
2. yayliqa
3. yuungaaghaq

HOOPER BAY

The following students were named to the Spring Honor Roll at Hooper Bay School in the Lower Yukon School District:

12th grade: Hannah Fisher - High, William Green, Henry Smith;

11th grade: Beverly Bell, Sharon Bunyan, Della Mae Green, Leota Hill, Victor Night, Christine Olson - High, Harold Simon, Jane Smith;

10th grade: Eddie Bell, Ramona Hill, Patrick Lake;

9th grade: Christopher Fisher, Robert Gump, Elvina - High, Moses Tomaganuk - High.

NOME

By Dan Bloom

Tundra Times Correspondent

For three days last month more than 100 women from the Bering Strait region met in Nome for the first annual Women's Conference. Its theme was "Women's Spirit Rising."

Representatives from Shishmaref, Savoonga, Gambell, Stebbins, St. Michael, White Mountain, Unalakleet, Teller and other villages attended the conference which took place at Nome's mini-convention center.

Daily panel discussions focussed on cultural awareness, community involvement, regional unity, parenting and education. Afternoon workshops at Northwest Community College featured films, videotape presentations and group discussions about assertiveness, health, safety, alcohol abuse, children and other subjects of important concern to women in the Bering Strait region.

According to Jenny Alowa, one of the four women who originally organized the conference, the three-day meeting was a great success. "There was such a beautiful spirit of sharing at this conference," Alowa said. "We had women from many different villages and from various age groups, young and old, and during the whole conference the spirit and cooperation was fantastic. We hope we can make this an annual event for the women

of our region, in order to continue the work that we began this March."

Lydia Gerton, Vicky Horton and Rosemary Phillips were the three other Nome women who planned the conference. Funding came from the Bering Sea Women's Group and from the Comprehensive Alcohol Program, with other important services donated by Northwest Community College, Kawerak, Norton Sound Health Corporation and the Bering Strait Regional School District. Local community

groups and businesses donated other services as well in what turned out to be a very well coordinated and smooth-running conference.

The conference concluded with a Saturday Women's Fair featuring education and health booths, exhibits, arts and crafts presentations, clothes, hair care, aerobics and traditional medicines.

"A conference like this gives so much energy to all these women," said Alowa, a tutor for the Eskimo Teacher Education Project in Nome.