

Spring Is Very Busy Time at Gambell, Alaska

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GAMBELL — Spring is very busy time here in Gambell, Alaska. Men are out at sea with their skinboats as soon as it calms down.

There are more nice, mild weather in springtime. The ice is less and less and there are just lots of walrus and seals near by. So there is much work to be done on the skins and meats.

Everyone is busy on seals and walrus that have been killed and brought home. We like to work outdoors in springtime.

We would work and work on, then, sometimes until the sunset turns to sunrise. We like to

spend nice, warm evening hours outdoors, then fall into sleep into the cool morning hours then till around noon.

Now-a-days, in this sleepy time of the day, and as we would hear a plane zoom by overhead heading for the airport south of the village. Sometimes everyday they come.

When we finally jump up from sleep, there'll be people walking around who had come on Munz planes. Sometimes they are students who came back and other times they are visitors.

This spring, a whole lot of bird watchers came and stayed for a few days.

Dr. Bandi, the Swiss archaeologist and his group are here, too. They soon will be digging.

Our school teachers are gone, too. Most of us would find out that some have gone and some are back by planes. We hardly use skinboats anymore. Some still do — a few.

Everyone has snowmachines. Chaparrals and Hondas to travel with. But skinboats are still in use. We like them better than modern boats.

There is one problem we have here at Gambell, and that is our drinking water. Some years back the little house was built behind the 4th class city for for water pump. We enjoyed getting nice water for a long time.

Then for some winters, it turned salty. Last winter was one. How we missed the pump water. We have been going miles for drinking water.

But we are very happy now. The pump water has just now turned into fresh water again.