

Gambell News -

Vacation Time in the Village

By Grace Stwooko
Dateline: Gambell, Alaska

It is summer time in Gambell, Alaska. That means lots and lots of work and camping. Some people are building houses, some are making speed boats and some putting new hide covering on the boats.

There are over 20 walrus hide boats. So it is always very busy summer, trying to get all the things done, before the cold winter comes along, if we have the skins tanned and boats all fixed just at the right time, no severe winter hazard will hurt us. Or if we don't do them, they just go waste.

First came the Vacation Bible School for the kids. How the children enjoyed two weeks with Mary Tenner and the other lady. They have devotions, Bible stories and games in the Presbyterian church.

Then came to 4th of July celebration day, boy, do we ever enjoy the day to be out playing and be with the people for a while. Whole day, there be prizes won by the experts, people that are good on doing things. Toys and shirts were prizes for the children in races.

This year, there even were paper bags with money and caps from Switzerland hunts. Women and children moved around feeling on the ground for them with blind folds on their eyes. The caps from Switzerland were put out by Dr. Bandi, the archaeologist.

Soon after this another vacation Bible School week began. This was at the Seventh Day Adventist Church this time. Jeanette and Bernie Willis with two student nurses had the Vacation Bible School carried on good and

lively with about 30 children.

Then came the North Star III! First everyone would be running around excited about the notices put up at the store door window, which said that the North Star III is arriving tomorrow! Sure enough, right the next day, it came.

This is a very good news we like to tell each other. Now a days North Star comes a little later, around the middle of July. It use to come when the nights are not dark at all, on the very first part of July. How we enjoy, going to the beach and set and watch, while the work goes on.

Some times even women and children work, and some times only men work. Now since it is a little later, when this goes on and there is pretty dim night for an hour at best, how North Star III cast bright lights so beautifully as it sets there at the sea to our north and some times at our west. And when it is foggy, the great, cliff-like vessel is seen now and then as the light fog hangs around, while the unloading goes on, like a city on the cliff it casts bright lights into the sea.

There were two men, that use to come ashore, we know them so well, big tall men Walter and Moe. For years, they must travel around here, how great power they work with. They would unload just lots of supplies for here for winter, some times great big tanks are brought ashore, for fuel.

Walter and Moe as we always call them, would give candy to the kids as they pass by. As we always go for something sweet, we always like that. And for those couple of years, Moe really has been lining up the kids for his candy at the shore. He has

been bringing boxes of them. We like to thank them, Walter, too.

After the North Star, Pastor Willis had a Bible camp for some children. There were about 16 of

them, but they had to come back before the day it was time for them to come back. It was rainy week and the wind was blowing so much. In spite the

weather they enjoyed the camp. Eskimo parents like to thank the teachers that came and held those Bible Schools and camp for our children.

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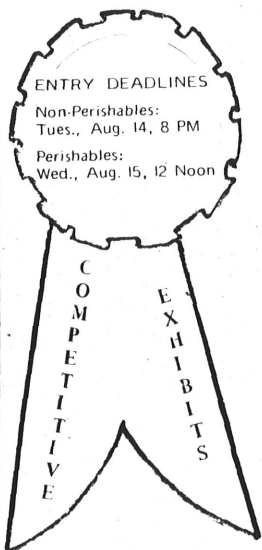
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LOCAL TALENT - CONCESSIONS - FARMER'S MARKET
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WEDNESDAY
Aug. 15

Alaskan Porkpourri
Grand Opening

Kid's Day Parade
and Contests

4-H State Dress Revue

Minibike Races

THURSDAY
Aug. 16

4-H Day

Pepsi Day!

Harvest Queen

Coronation Dance

FRIDAY
Aug. 17

Award's Ceremony

Grange Day

Jr. Timber Contest

Motorcycle Race

SATURDAY
Aug. 18

Talent Show

Pet Show

Horseshoe Pitching

Timber Contest

Horse Show

SUNDAY
Aug. 19

Baby Show

Church Service

Fashion Show

Special Awards

Dog Show

Rock Dance

TANANA VALLEY FAIRGROUNDS - 2 Mile College Road