

Great Storm Tosses Ice Ashore

— Writer Evacuates Her Stories In Bag

By GRACE SLWOOKO
Gambell Correspondent

GAMBELL — It all happened back in the days just before Christmas, 1973. Amid the darkness of long nights and winter blizzards, we hurried around and enjoyed the preparations for the holidays.

There is always happiness and excitement during Christmas. Everyone goes to watch the programs the school gives. As there is not much room for the whole town, they always give it in the armory.

But this time, it was one of the prettiest setups. The children were very happy and everyone enjoyed the program. The teachers are very interesting for us to be with.

GREAT STORM

This week on December 31, 1973, we were in the storm again! The night before, the wind must have been 100 miles an hour at times. It was the strongest that blew on us.

And in the morning, we soon found out that the sea was heavily rolling in on us from the Western Sea. It came the

closest to the town than other storms we had.

Everyone was running around getting ready to run away. The wind was still very strong.

It was good to think of the homes some people built last summer, way back away from the village. The new armory is back there, too. Some people were going there for shelter. I found a shelter for my precious belongings — my writings. With tears in my eyes, I picked up my bag of writings and ran to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Aponglook. Finding

a safe place there, I hurried back to help my busy children.

The storm is calmed down at last during the last several hours. No damage was found but the sea is more closer to the homes again. It is getting closer and closer but the ice is getting pretty thick on the sea. So the force of the waves was hindered ever so much by the heavy ice!

But great force of the sea was crumbling it in great mass of pieces and the sea was tossing even big pieces of it against the shore.

No one was hurt.

No More Dick and Jane

(From NATIVE PRESS)

A teacher in Fort McPherson is helping children read and write about their own world, where the opening of the local beer store or a picture of father cutting wood are part of the life they know.

Linda Brown has worked out a system where the grade 6 children write stories which the grade ones use as readers. The younger children also make up their own stories, and read the ones written by their friends.

One story by a girl in Grade 6 described the opening of the beer store and the way the ration system works out: "Some people only get one or two cases a week. Some people tell other people to get it for them."

Life for some native people was captured in a book called "My Father" by a grade one child.

Under a picture of a black R.C.M.P. van was written, "This is my father going to jail." The next picture was, "This is my

father coming home."

Every day Mrs. Brown tells the children to bring in a new word they want to learn. The child writes the word on a card, and learns to recognize and read them.

One small boy was reading words like "bombadier" and "Fort McPherson."

The next word all the children learned the day before the reporters visited the class was "North" and children eagerly scrambled finding blackboard space to show off how they could write it.

A teacher-aide is with the children every day to teach Loucheux.

Using every chance to make a lesson out of an experience, after the reporters took a sample reader written by Joanne, Mrs. Brown had several children run up to help her compose a letter to Joanne, asking her to write a new story for them. Her lesson began, "How do we start a letter?"

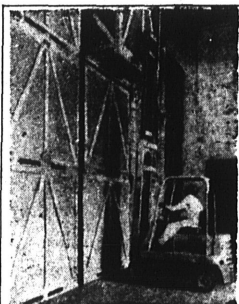
Fliers Are First Victims

(Continued from page 6)

"Then all of a sudden in the middle of winter, they chop you off," said Esmailka. "You're darned right you're going to have starvation and malnutrition if the air taxis can't fly," he said.

And what Esmailka, Billings, Dodson and Huntington can't figure out, they said, is why Alaska's air taxis are being treated as if their service were a luxury. "Alaska's air taxis should be treated like bus companies or a railroad," Dodson said.

For now, Dodson and others in the state aviation industry are awaiting the appointment of an Alaska director of the Office of Energy Allocation. The deputy director for the Alaska region, they hope, will realize the vital role played by air taxis here, and will give oil companies specific guidelines from which to allocate fuel for aviation.



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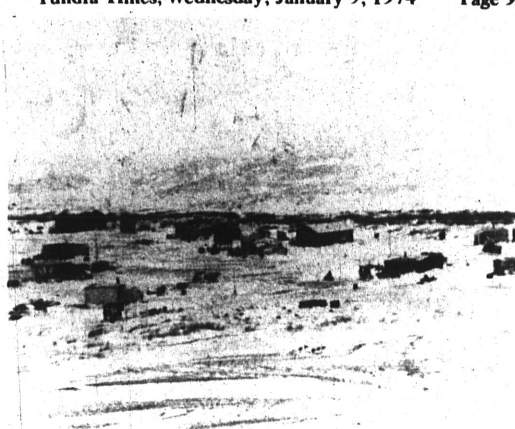
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NEW HOUSING FOR ANAKTUVIK — Ten new houses were recently constructed at Anaktuvik Pass for village residents under the remote housing program. Two of the new units are seen at the center and top left of this photograph taken last week. Initial reports indicate that the villagers are favorably impressed with the quality of the new houses.

— Tundra Times staff photo

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