

Bessie Kawunna:

***“Life easier,
not better”***



FOUR GENERATIONS — Born in Point Hope, Bessie Kawunna poses with her daughter, Faith Carter; her grand daughter, Elaine; and her great-grandson, Myron.

— Photo by JACQUELINE GLASGOW

Bessie Kawunna, born in Point Hope, poses proudly with four generations of her family. Bessie, the great-grandmother, Faith Carter, her daughter, Elaine, her granddaughter, and Myron, her great-grandson.

Bessie bore 14 children, of whom five are living. She has 19 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Bessie lived much of her life at Cape Lisbourne and Pt. Lay. Her first husband was lost while seal hunting on the ice. She now lives at Kotzebue.

Bessie commented that while life is perhaps easier in many ways now than when she was growing up, she doesn't like the changes.

"But they expected this," she said. "The old people knew the changes were coming."

The Carters recently took grandson Myron to visit relatives now living in Washington and California, stopping off at Disneyland, a world removed from the ancient village of Point Hope.

They were surprised how many native people living outside were acquainted with the Tundra Times and the work of Howard Rock, editor, also born in Point Hope.

Asked if their children living in the lower '48 were homesick, the Carters laughed and said, "They would like to visit back here, of course, but they seem to like that nice warmth down there."