

'Many people go out to their camps with their families'

by Grace Slwooko
for the Tundra Times

ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND — When the growing grass and wild plants are all ripe and tender, we always go to the places where they grow and pick the eatable ones.

We eat them with our meats and fat from seals and maklak. We call this seal that is a large one *maklak*. At the mainland, they call this *ukruk*.

We have names for many things like eatable wild green plants. One is *nuniwak*, which grow plentiful in many places. We even fill large seal skins of that for winter sometimes. It is first put in wooden barrels awhile with water, pressed down hard and put heavy weight on of rocks.

Many people go out to their camps with their families in summertime.

When I was a child, my father used to take us his family to the other end of St. Lawrence Island, *Sivuqaq* in our language. But the places he built houses were *Tunniq* and *Sivaaghet*. Some places piles of wood drift in at the beaches in long stretches around the island. So some men even build log houses.

That's what we had, too. My father got logs from where they drift in at the beach. There are no standing trees on our island.

But we would stay at those places until March. Then we come back to Gambell with dog teams, when the fox trapping is over. It always takes two days to travel back to Gambell.

Our stay overnight at Savoonga always was very exciting and full of fun, for us kids. There would be many happy reunions with the relatives there.

Nowadays people are out to their camps with their Hondas. Lots of people use those Hondas now out here. Those are wonderful to have.

Happy summer to all!



Grace Slwooko