

News from Gambell

By GRACE SLWOOKO

The village of Gambell is in the point farthest north on St. Lawrence Is., so it is coldest there. Other villages are not as cold and spring comes earlier, too. Just before snow comes in September, there are very few spots of snow from last year left on the mountain a mile away from the village.

This summer, there have been work going on in different places in Gambell. 30 houses are being built, looks like they are almost done. They are very good looking houses and in a very pleasant place, north of Bering Straits' Housing area.

There also is another construction work going on, it is at the P.H.S. water system. Another construction is at the high school, making more rooms. Play ground for B.I.A. school is set up, too with swings, sea saws, monkey bars and merry-go-round.

Hondas are popular here, even they cost more than \$1000.00, everyone get them. We work hard to get them, because Gambell is getting more things far apart, so hondas are handy. Many people get those and chaparrals with their ivory, either carved or artifacts. There have been fancy ivory idols and images found by people when they dig in old villages. There are three different villages here only in Gambell area. One by the mountain is Mayughwaq, another one farther out is Ayveg-hyaget and one by the lake is Pitegseghaghvik.

This month of September, the wind has been blowing really hard in couple of days at a time. After each storm people like

to go to the beach and take trips down the coast and otherside of the mountain looking for things that might come ashore. There have been lots of sea foods coming ashore, we pick them up for food, they are good to eat meat with.

Other people have been going around the island, some dug in other old villages. One village that is said that had death coming on it, all at once one time, either by great destruction of some kind years ago is on the other side of the island. There is a legend that had something like this village had gone through.

Legend

Once upon a time there were two girls that were from some other villages in Eskimo land, that were living in one place as they had moved there being married to the men there.

One time, one girl noticed that people in her home, all her in-laws her husband and even her little baby didn't wake up, they just slept on. The girl was awake all by herself whole day, the rest of the family slept on through the day. And they just slept on through another night. They slept heavily on until they all sorrowfully die. The girl was terrified! As she couldn't wake her baby, she would lovingly wrapped her in her arms and go to sleep with him. When she sleep, all the people ther would wake up and move around, but

when she quickly wake up to catch them awake, it would only be a dream. Then her mother-in-law talked to her when she was asleep again, telling her that she must go back to her people as they themselves were not living anymore. She lovingly gave her instructions. She told her to cut open her room from the inside not at the entrance

way but at the back side of the house and take her puppy along and stay overnight at the place there and then go on to the out side by opening the outer wall. Then she told her to go on to her own village from there.

So the girl did just what her mother-in-law told her in the dream. Very sorrowfully the girl

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made her way leaving her beloved people, especially she couldn't leave her baby for a while. She fixed everyone up as nicely as she could, clean all around them and took off in great sorrow, through the back of the house. And as she was taking her journey on foot to her people's village, there came someone after her. It was that other girl, same thing had happened to her in-laws and her husband. But as she may have not as thoughtful as her, she may not have instructions to go out, she was getting terrified and

insane. The girls got home, but the other was out of her mind. The people may have gone to observe the place when the wise girl told her people, as it is said that this village was disolate all people has fallen into deep sleep!

That's the end of that horrible story, but brave girl had made her way home as love can move the heart of life I guess. What ever had caused the terrible death come to this certain village we don't know, but we know it can be punishment for some evil thing people do. Love always is the nicest thing, it can move the heart of Life.