

## Grace Slwooko writes in Siberian Yupik

By LAEL MORGAN

Writing  
Something new for the Eskimo  
In the land of ice and snow.

GS

Columnist Grace Slwooko has been writing in English for the last decade, as Tundra Times readers well know, but writing in Siberian Yupik, her Native language, is something new. She picked it up when she went to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs language workshop last February.

Since that time she's produced five books for school children and is working on a sixth — the most fascinating of them all. It's the St. Lawrence legend about a mean ol' giant and Mike Apatiki has illustrated it with a wonderfully grizzly set of drawings.

Readers who have been following Mrs. Slwooko for years, wonder what she is like and so this writer was dispatched to Nome to interview her.

She was born on Gambell, St. Lawrence Island, in a walrus skin house; the oldest of nine children. Her father supported the family very well by trapping foxes and selling whale baleen and they lived in the traditional Siberian Eskimo manner with a few surprising exceptions.

St. Lawrence people were always quick to experiment with something new, she explains. Her father liked innovation and was one of the first to order the new-fangled wooden boats that were popular in that day.

"They work well in open water but when that wood hits the ice they break," she recalls. And so they went back to their old skin boat.

Mrs. Slwooko was a bright student and graduated from eighth grade on the island. Later she went to school in Oregon and Palmer. She liked her studies but missed the island.

On return she married and devoted herself to raising a family — eight children, one adopted. Then her husband was killed in an automobile crash and she was hard put to support the family.

## Selected Alaska Hunting and Fishing Tales

The personal experiences of 50 outdoorsmen have been brought together into volume four of "Selected Alaska Hunting & Fishing Tales," the largest issue of the popular annual produced to date by Alaska Northwest Publishing Company.

Hunting stories cover the sweep of the wilderness experience, with reports of individual hunts of common big game species, moose, bear, deer, caribou, sheep and goat. In addition, stories from Alaska Eskimos reflect the excitement and danger of their traditional hunts for whale, seal and walrus.

One of the many exceptional hunting stories was pieced together from the newly discovered diary and pictures of a Fitchburg, Massachusetts, merchant who spent 42 days hunting in the Cassiar District of British Columbia in 1916.

"I read the Nome Nugget. They said they would take little bits of news from the villages so I started writing. Nome Nugget and Tundra Times." It didn't make her rich, but it did help fill the gaps.

Her inlaws, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Slwooko, had been as close to Grace as her own parents, and they took her two daughters, living with them in Nome while they attended high school. Charles carved ivory to help with the groceries and it worked out well.

When Charles and his wife were killed in a plane crash last year, Grace moved to Nome with the rest of the family, but plans to return to St. Lawrence as soon as school is out.

As for the future, she has one daughter who is learning to type and is a help in her work and two others who prefer housework and skin sewing to books and papers.

"They just don't like school," Mrs. Slwooko considers. "But it looks good to me. I might as well go back to school and let them be mothers."



GRACE SLWOOKO and her daughter at Gambell on St. Lawrence Island.

—Photo By LAEL MORGAN

## Proposed guidelines for bilingual elections

Attorney General Edward H. Levi issued proposed permanent guidelines for the conduct of bilingual elections in 513 political subdivisions in 30 states.

The guidelines, which will become effective after a 30-day period for public comment, are the Attorney General's standards for enforcement of the 1975 Amendments to the Voting Rights Act.

The Amendments, which were enacted last August 6, require political subdivisions to conduct elections in other languages as well as English where there are specified language minority groups.

The proposed guidelines were published today in the Federal Register and upon republication will supersede the interim guidelines issued last October 3.

Mr. Levi said the interim guidelines have been modified in part as a result of experience gained in elections since the enactment of the Amendments and comments from affected

jurisdictions and interested persons and organizations.

The Attorney General stressed that the objective of the bilingual election law is to enable members of seven language minority groups — American Indian, Alaskan Native, Chinese American, Filipino American, Japanese American, Korean American, and Spanish heritage — to participate effectively in the electoral process.

## AWA in opposition of oil lease sale

The Alaska Workers Alliance, at its last organizational meeting in Anchorage (March 31) passed a resolution voicing opposition to the Department of the Interior's proposed April 13 oil lease sale in the Gulf of Alaska.

The resolution also called on all Alaskan workers to participate in the Alaska-wide demonstrations held on April 13 which had been called for by the Alaskan Alliance for democratic resource management to show Alaskan opposition to the sale.

The resolution stated in part: "The proposed OCS lease sale in the northern Gulf of Alaska directly threatens stable Alaskan jobs based upon the renewable fishery resource. The short-term transient jobs OCS development will bring are further outweighed by the negative social impact upon our coastal communities.

"Almost every agency that has reviewed the lease sale has recommended against it. Secretary of the Interior Kleppe's decision to go ahead with the sale is a further example of the lack of self-determination of the Alaskan people to do what is best for Alaska."

Changes must be submitted either to the Attorney General or to the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia before they can be put into effect.

Copies of the proposed guidelines may be obtained from

the Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.

Written comments should be sent in duplicate to the same address within the next 30 days.

## EDA approves grant

Approval of a \$146,400 grant to help create immediate construction jobs for unemployed workers at Tok, Alaska, was announced today by Wilmer D. Mizell, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development.

The Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism applied for the grant from the Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

The grant will be used to help build a multi-purpose community center at Tok. The center also will serve other near-by Indian villages. It will include an administrative center and recreational facilities.

EDA approved the grant under an amendment to the Public Works and Economic Development Act authorizing funds for useful public facilities in areas of high unemployment.

Council officials expect that 12 unemployed persons will be hired for the project. Work on the project is expected to get under way within 90 days and be completed in a year.

The Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism will provide \$36,600 to complete the \$183,000 total cost of the project.

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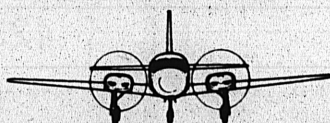
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