

Gruening, Assistant Enjoy Walrus Carnival at Savoonga

By GEORGE SUNDBORG

SAVOONGA, ALASKA, May 8—This Eskimo village, located some 4,500 miles (and six time zones) west northwest of Washington, D. C., on St. Lawrence Island, which extends to within 38 miles of the Siberian mainland, has been host this week to Senator Ernest Gruening (D-Alaska) and his administrative assistant, George Sundborg.

The Alaska senator was chief guest of honor at the annual Savoonga Walrus Festival, held last Saturday and Sunday. Senator Gruening took advantage of his three-day stay on the remote island to pay visits also to Gambell and Northeast Cape.

That the visit of a United States senator is a memorable event in this part of the world is attested to by the fact that dozens of Eskimo residents have come up to Senator Gruening to recall that they shook hands with him the last time he visited St. Lawrence Island, 25 years ago when he was the governor of Alaska.

They say they remember that he came to Gambell with Colonel Marvin S. "Muktuk" Marston, then a major, to organize a unit of the Alaska Territorial Guard, referred to still as it was in those World War II days as "the ATG."

Most of the ATG officers of the Gambell unit are now dead, though Senator Gruening was able to visit one survivor, Herbert Apassingok, who is bedridden at his home in the little village of Gambell.

The Eskimo inhabitants of all ages recall to Senator Gruening also that he



ST. LAWRENCE ISLAND WOMEN—Two elderly women on St. Lawrence Island are carrying on a conversation, perhaps talking about some people they knew in Siberia 38 miles from the island. The islanders speak the same dialect as their counterparts in Siberia.

succeeded in arranging an emergency delivery of food to the village when on his earlier visit he discovered that the islanders were facing hunger because they had taken jobs on defense base construction on the island instead of following their immemorial custom of laying in a winter food supply by hunting walrus, seal and other marine mammals in the icy waters surrounding the island in the middle of the Bering Sea.

St. Lawrence actually isn't exactly in the middle of the sea which separates Siberia and Alaska. It is much closer to the Asiatic side. Within 50 miles of Gambell 1400 people

who speak the same Eskimo dialect as the 850 Native people on St. Lawrence Island live in three villages—Chaplina, Avon and Kiwak—on the Chukotski Peninsula in Siberia. Savoonga is 180 miles southwest of Nome; Gambell is 60 miles farther west.

The Eskimos on St. Lawrence Island are of the same culture and blood as those in Siberia. They cannot understand the two main dialects of Eskimos living on the Alaska mainland, but could converse readily with their Siberian relatives. There was considerable intermarriage and other intermingling among Eskimos of

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Youths Applying for Summers Jobs

Employers of the Greater Fairbanks area are reminded that some two million youth will be seeking summer employment this year.

"Cooperating with the President's YOUTH OPPORTUNITY CAMPAIGN, the Fairbanks Office of the Alaska State Employment Service is prepared to screen and refer these young people for work for which they are qualified and available," according to James E. O'Rourke, Fairbanks Office Manager. Many of these young

people already have work applications on file with the Employment Service.

As need for the services of these young people arises it is suggested that employers contact the local office of the Alaska State Employment Service, Room 131, State Court and Office Building, Sixth and Barnette, or call this office at 452-1501.

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