

Correspondent Recalls Prowess of Friend Vincent Nageak

By GUY OKAKOK
Barrow Correspondent

FAIRBANKS — Met a man from Barrow village yesterday. He's in Fairbanks now staying with his son James Nageak, lay-preacher. His name is Vincent

Nageak, 70 years old.

Vincent came down for meeting as he is still a Presbyterian elder of Barrow Presbyterian church.

Vincent and I talked of old times, adventures together. Vincent was even a good runner,

outracing polar bears when the ocean ice isn't danger.

One time, I happen to follow his tracks when I recognize his foot prints. When I come to the highest ridges looking around with my binoculars, there I saw him sneaking toward polar bear.

This polar bear never pay no attention to him at all.

Vincent was only 100 feet away from this bear. Finally this bear heard him stepping. This polar bear start galloping in wrong direction. Vincent had his rifle in bag yet, never had it

out. He start running too.

I never even try to go down from where I was watching because I know darn well this polar bear can't never outrun him. Vincent got around the bear and start drowing him toward the safe solid ice. Vincent was only 70 feet or more behind this bear.

I kept on watching him until both comes to the safe ice. Vincent then unsack his rifle and shoot him one shot too. Then I start going down. I went to Vincent and we both skinned it. Didn't take too long to skin it. We took the whole meat.

And after his first wife Bernice cooked some bear meat, older people came in to participate some of this fresh catch.

One time him and I went out to the lead together, and out on lead, we happen to see Alec Ahsok. Lead ocean was calm and quiet when we came to Mr. Ahsok. I told Mr. Nageak "cousin, why can't we warm up ourself." We took off our hunting gear and start wrestling.

The young ice was wet and sloppy too. I was wearing a new reindeer parka. After we had our wrestling done, we asked Mr. Ahsok how many seals he's seen while we wrestling. Answer Mr. Ahsok was, "I don't know."

He said he kept watching us all the time, never had his eyes on seals.

My parka was so wet it freeze on me while I went home. After I took my parka out my Mom asked me, "Son, did you fell in the water?"

I said to her, "No, Mom, Vincent and I had played out on the salty young ice. That's how I got it wet."

I thought she would scolded me. Instead she began to laugh. While we all laughing, some one knock our door. There come Vincent and his father Kingaktak together.

Kingaktak asked me if it's true that I and his son Vincent wrestle out in sloppy ice. "Yes," I answered him, "it's true."

After Kingaktak had heard all the details he wishes to know.

He said, "Boys, I can't say anymore. I know you boys and I won't say anymore."

Ever since from that day, we never, I mean Vincent and I never hear any words from our parents as we both became hunters.

Let me add few more items about Vincent Nageak. Mr. Nageak is a good hunter, and whaler even, good trapper. Always outrun polar bears.

I wish he would stay another day, but he's leaving tomorrow morning.

WEATHER AMAZING
Older Eskimos and Indians who has been in Fairbanks all their lives said that this winter is different than any winters. They said in November, the temperature especially goes down to 30-40 below, but it's been above all the time.

Mr. Harding Kataeroak, Eskimo here in Fairbanks, said it's not only climate but our games are very scarce even here, all over.

COME TO MEETING
All the Eskimos here in Fairbanks were urged to come to the meeting as they are going to have the first one this week Wednesday.

Refreshments will be served in the meeting as Christmas is not too far away.

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