Igiugig Theatre First Production of School Year
By Sandra Alvarez

Not a single person from Igiugig was home the night of November 20th, because the whole village was in attendance at the first performance by the “Igiugig Players” for this school year.

The production entitled “The Tall Stranger” was set in the old west and involved several tough cowboy types who ruled the town and dealt underhandedly with the residents and passers by. The villains, Bat Farr and Ace High, were played by AlexAnna and Jonathan Salmon respectively, while the hero of the tale, Montgomery Blackstone, was played by Tanya Salmon. The stage was set in the lobby of the Cactus Hotel owned by Mamie Shanks, also known as Ida Nelson. Dance hall girl, Diane de Koot played by Christina Salmon, who always had something to say about everyone and everything, frequented the establishment. The show culminated with the surprise discovery that Pop Sickle, played by Kevin Olympic, was actually cousin and consort of Montgomery Blackstone and assisted in freeing the town from the grip of Bat Farr.

The performance was masterfully done, fast paced and action packed, with the actors performing their parts without hesitation. The Potowatami tribal members maintained their stoic looks despite the audience’s laughter and a rousing rendition of “Oh Susanna” was provided by portions of the first grade class dressed as cowboys and cowgirls.

Other members of the cast included: the maiden in distress, Penelope Priss (Ashley Jacobsen), a very dusty stagecoach driver named Slippery Ellum (David Alvarez), Indian Tribe members, Running Water (Jessica Jacobsen), Rising Moon (Panteleimon Askoak), Pump House (Jeremy Salmon) and Setting Sun (Angel Alvarez), and singers, Hondo (Jacob Askoak), Daisy (Shayna Nelson), Bessie (Alicia Zackar) and Lolly (Essa Jacobsen).

The set and costumes were produced entirely by the school students, with assistance from Bernadette Andrew and their teachers, Bonnie & Jeff Thurston. A lot of effort and hard work went into providing this evening of enjoyment for the community.

Overall the performance was a huge success and congratulations are due to all those who worked so hard as actors and behind the scenes to make it happen. Photos are included on page two for your enjoyment.

The Tall Stranger has left Igiugig by Jeff Thurston

Well, The Tall Stranger has come and gone, leaving a proud impression on us all. I would like to thank all the people who shared their praise of the hard work that went into the production, as well as of the performance. Unfortunately, Bernadette, Bonnie, and I didn’t get to see the play, as we are positioned in areas that allow us to help the performers, but not to see the play. One of these days we will watch the video of the show, but for now, the memories of your laughter and applause will sustain us. Thank you.
The Rock with the Eye
By AlexAnna Salmon

I was so frustrated, I started yelling at my dad, “Dad, you don’t understand! I have to go to the A.A. meet. All my friends will be there!”

“Calm down Tara, and get to your room!” Yelled a very annoyed father. “You are not to be yelling at me like that!”

“But Dad!” I pleaded, almost in tears.

“I don’t want to hear another word, get to your room now, before I boot you in there.”

I stormed into my room, crying, like my mother at a funeral. I jumped onto my bed, thinking how to make my life easier: moving away, staying in my room forever, or running away. I am hopeless. I have no place to move, or no place to run. Then I got a brilliant idea. Brilliant idea! I could not believe myself. Suicide! I’ll make my dad so sorry. He will never forgive himself.

Today is a foggy morning, my favorite weather, with the sun trying to peep through the clouds and mist. I could see frost on the rocks, melting as the morning creeps by. The early birds were chirping cheerily, singing my death chant. As I walked along the rocky beach, and the big rocky cliff, I thought to myself, I’ll show my dad. He’ll feel so sorry, and so guilty that he didn’t let me go to the A.A. meet, that his guilt will haunt him eternally.

I climbed up the rocky cliff, overlooking the cold, dark blue, bottomless lake, which looked like the midnight sky. “I’ll pay you back dad!” I screamed. With that, Tara jumped off the cliff, only to discover at the last moment, she didn’t want to die.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw something. This was a monster, the myth of Alaska, the Iliamna Lake Monster! The monster had soft brown looking hair on the back, a blue diamond shape over the green eye, colorful, but odd triangular and checker-shaped patterns on the side. This monster had white lines on the belly, with two big fins on the side for swimming with. The body was a light blue color, like the lake on a clear bright day. The monster had a mermaid like tail on the end, which was actually a violet color. The monster was actually quite colorful.

I almost fainted when I saw the monster, and now I really didn’t want to die. I was a little late in changing my mind though. I hit the water with a big belly flop, and pain shot through my body. I became surrounded in water, and from the impact of the water hitting my stomach, I lost my breath. The breath was actually knocked out of me. I would have drowned, if not the monster grabbed me by my mouth, and took me to the surface. I gulped in air, tears streaming out of my eyes, shivering, and shaking from both fear and cold. I slowly regained control of myself, and realized that the monster saved me.

The Iliamna Lake Monster, which everyone feared, saved me. I was shocked. I became even more shocked when the monster took me for a ride around the lake. I sat on his back, and slowly warmed up. The monster even gave me a rock. The rock was light, and had a perfect diamond, with one eye in the middle. This special rock was the other side of the monsters’ eye, so he could always watch over me. As the monster gave me the rock, he said in a deep, friendly voice, which had a watery accent, “Keep this rock forever, and promise me you will never lose this.”

“I promise I will never lose the rock,” I said. I will always remember you. Thank you.” With that, I jumped off the monster, and ran home.

I suddenly awoke with a shudder. I was in a cold sweat. I could hear my mom and dad talking. Morning was here already! My dad didn’t seem so mean anymore. I was home safe in my bed. I was only having a nightmare. I was so happy, I couldn’t believe I was dreaming! For a minute I thought I was in heaven. I decided I was never ever going to try, or think about committing suicide, and I was so happy that my facing of death was only a dream.

As I turned, something fell from my hand. I turned on my lamp and saw an glowing rock. The rock with the eye!

“At The Bottom of the Lake”
By Tanya Jo Salmon

My story takes place at Big Mountain. The character that tells the story is a schoolteacher. So the story is in the school building on top of Big Mountain.

“Since you kids have been doing well in school I will tell you a story, a true story,” said the teacher, Ms. Lindsey, as she reached for a book.

“Oh great, another stupid story,” groaned Billy from the back of the room.

“I heard that Billy,” said Ms. Lindsey calmly. “If you don’t want to listen to the story, you don’t have to.”

“Well, I won’t,” Billy said stubbornly, while crossing his arms.

“Okay,” she began “one day a little girl was walking down the beach. The little girl was sobbing. She had just got in an

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argument with her parents. The little girl was not that little; she was ten years old. She was not a tomboy, but a girlie girl. She wore black stretch pants, a white shirt, blue shoes, and her hair was in two tight pigtails.

“I’m so mad I want to kill myself,” she thought. So the little girl went to see her best friend, Remember. Remember was a tiny little girl with red shoulder length hair; she had some freckles on her face, she always wore jeans or overalls; she was a tomboy; she had lots of objects that boys have; she even had a new boat, and she was also good at sports.

“Remember, since you got a new boat would you mind taking me for a spin?” Asked the little girl.

“Okay, where to?”

“Well, maybe to the middle of the lake.”

“Okay, let’s go,” she said as they climbed in the small gray boat.

“Where is your tool bag, Remember?”

“Under the bench, why do you need it?”

“I just want to look at it, and try on the tool belt,” said the little girl looking for the tool belt.

So while the little girl was putting on the tool belt Remember was driving the boat. Then the girls stopped when they were in the middle of the calm, shimmering lake.

“Hey, look the Iliamma Lake Monster,” said the little girl jumping up and down on excitedly on the seats.

“Where, I don’t see anything,” said Remember, looking around. When Remember was looking for the monster, the little girl jumped off the boat.

“What are you doing?” asked Remember looking down at her friend sinking down into the cold blue water.

“The little girl sank down, down, down until she reached the bottom of the lake. Where she landed was amazing! A big clay house was in front of her. Remember and I tried to make a clay house before, but it collapsed. How did this house make it underwater she thought? The little girl was out of breath, so she fainted! A few minutes later a monster swam above her, he just came back from eating salmon, so he was full. The monster that was really the Iliamma Lake Monster swam above the little girl. He picked her up and brought her into his house. He gave her oxygen, (a special kind of oxygen) and let her breath. The monster was about to eat her, but when he saw the sadness in her eyes, he remembered his sad life story, so he let her go. But before she left she asked,”

“Why didn’t you eat me?”

“Well” he said in his rough, gruff voice “I had a terrible life when I was young. I used to live in the Bristol Bay Ocean with my mother and father. We were going extinct because people would kill us and use our skinny snake like bodies as ropes. One day while my parents and I were going to a party, a net dropped and got my Mother and Father. As they were being lifted out of the water my parents said, “Go some where safe.” So, I swam up the Kvichak River and ended up here.”

“Boy, I didn’t think that you had a happy life. Everybody thinks that you are evil, mean, and malicious.”

“Everybody has a life story to tell.”

Once he said that the oxygen started to wearing off, so the little girl had to swim to the surface of the water were Remember was sitting, not to mention that she had a worried look on her face. Once the little girl told her story to Remember, they went home. When the girls got to Big Mountain, the little girl ran home to apologize to her parents. Then the little girl and Remember told their fascinating story to everybody living on Big mountain.

“How do you know that this story is true?”

“Well Billy, I’m the little girl.”

“In Whose Imagination Does the Lake Monster Live?”

By Christina Salmon

“Where did you ever hear such a stupid story from?” Alex asked his best friend Jr. after he had finished his story about the Iliamma Lake Monster.

“All of the elders in the village tell the story,” Jr. replied. “I’ve just assumed it to be true.”

Alex was visiting Jr. from Anchorage while his parents were away on vacation. Jr. lived in a small village called Igiugig. Igiugig was located at the mouth of the Kvichak River. Alex never believed in the stories that Jr. told. He thought that they were a bunch of tall tales told to children to keep them away from the water.

“Why do you believe in that nonsense?” Alex asked. “There is no proof that the Lake Iliamma monster exists.” “I think it’s all in your imagination.”

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In Whose Imagination . . . (Continued from page 4)

“Well, believe what you want,” replied Jr. “But I know that when it is dark out the monster does come out.”

Alex just sat there on Jr.’s couch shaking his head. “You need something better to do with your time.” Sitting around here causes your imagination to concede the truth.”

Jr. sat at the dinner table and stared out towards the lake. He needed a way to prove to Alex that the monster really does exist, he thought. He thought having an elder tell Alex the story, but decided that wouldn’t work. Then he thought maybe he could take Alex out for a boat ride and try to find the monster. That didn’t please him either. And finally it hit him!

“Hey Alex, if you think that this is just a bunch of nonsense, have I’ve got a dare for you.”

“Tell me, I’ll do anything you dare me to.” Alex sat there hoping that the dare wasn’t too dangerous, but if he could prove Jr. wrong, it was worth it.

“Here’s the deal,” said Jr. “You take a walk up the beach after sundown tonight and whistle for the monster.” If he doesn’t show, you win, but if he does, you have to promise never to laugh at my stories again.”

Deep inside Alex was nervous. A little piece of his mind believed that the monster really did exist. He had heard other elders in the community talk about the monster, but he never wanted to show them that he had a weakness, or they might think something of him.

“Okay, tonight at the Point, I’ll whistle for the monster, but then I am never doing one of your dares again,” said Alex. All day he sat and pondered about what he would do that evening and how he would react if the monster did show.

That evening after the sun had set, Alex put on his coat and boots. He stepped out of the house as Jr. closed the door behind him.

It was cold and windy out. Alex never knew how eerie it looked outside in the dark. Shadows crept along the trees, and rolled through the grass. Owls hooted and bats swooped about him. Alex was very nervous. Slowly he made his way to the beach. He jumped at every sound, and found himself shaking just thinking about what awaited him. When Alex reached the Point he noticed that the water looked cold and unforgiving. The blackness of night surrounded him as he stared into the sky that looked like a black hole, waiting to suck him away. Why did everything have to look so serious and forlorn? Alex wondered as chills crept through his body.

Something in the water moved. Alex’s eyes must have been playing tricks on him. Then he looked again. Something was coming towards him. The monster? It was big and dark with beady eyes. No, this can’t be happening thought Alex. I haven’t even whistled yet. That doesn’t matter. I know it’s there. Why didn’t I believe Jr. in the first place? I have to get out of here.

Alex turned and ran towards Jr.’s house. His hands were white, and he was breathing deep.

As Alex bustled into Jr.’s house, Jr. jumped from the couch and asked “So, how did it go?”

“It’s out there,” said Alex. “the monster!” “I saw it, he was coming towards me!”

“What, you saw what?” answered Jr.

“The monster is out there. I am so sorry that I never believed you. I will never laugh at one of your stories again,” Alex said.

Jr. sat there dumbfounded. He never really believed in the lake monster, but found the stories fun to tell. He couldn’t let Alex know this now. Alex really believed that the lake monster existed. “Well, it took you long enough to believe me,” said Alex with a sly grin on his face. From that day on, when Jr. told Alex one of his stories, Alex sat there politely and listened closely.

The moral of this story is for people to not let their imagination concede the truth.

SCHOOL NEWS

By Bonnie Thurston

IGIUGIG SCHOOL’S CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Students have been working very hard getting ready for our first Craft Fair. Some of the items for sale will include shell boxes, necklaces with hand made beads, earrings, floating candles, antler buttons, polar fleece hats and gaiters. All proceeds from the sale will benefit the Student Activity Fund.

Keep December 12th open to attend 1:00pm to 4:00pm.

Student Entrepreneurs will also be selling their merchandise.

There will be games, door prizes, and the chance to purchase raffle tickets for some great donated items from businesses in King Salmon and Anchorage.

Students will also be selling a large variety of food, drinks, and snacks. Please plan to attend!

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The Making of Bloody Mary

By Ashley Jacobsen

One day, a bunch of girls decided to go camping on the beach. They got their tents and sleeping bags and brought them down to the beach and set them up. Then, they went to get some snacks.

Just when they were leaving Mary’s grandmother said, “DON’T GO SWIMMING TONIGHT”!

The girls wondered why they couldn’t. The girls looked at each other and then asked, “Why can’t we go swimming?”

The grandmother replied by saying, “If you go swimming you will find out. If you don’t go swimming and come back safe and sound tomorrow, I will tell you why”.

Then, the girls turned and left. As soon as they were out of earshot of the house, they all started laughing hysterically, except for one lone ranger, which was Truth. Well, some people called her True as well as Truth. This was not her real name, but a nickname she had picked up. So, when the girls got down to the beach, they made a fire, and were gathering wood so the fire would keep going through the night.

Then Mary said, “I’m going swimming.”

Truth was surprised, because she was the one who’s grandmother said not to go swimming. Still Mary jumped in, as soon as she hit the water she disappeared. All the other girls said, “oh don’t worry she will come bobbing up in a few seconds she is just playing around.” Seconds went by, and she still did not appear, the girls got worried. Meanwhile, under water a slimy green pimply monster had captured her.

Well, the girls were very scared by this time, they had heard someone saying “got ya.”

The girls screamed as loud as they possibly could. All, but True she stood quietly then she tried calming them down but it didn’t work. All of a sudden, Mary was thrown over the girl’s head and landed up behind their tents. All the girls ran to her and were getting warm dry clothes and were all talking to her at once. Truth was glad she was all right but she let the other girls be the ones to look after her. She decided to go for little walk down the beach. She stopped and pick up a little rock and through it at something sticking up in the water it bobbed up then went under the water again. Truth walked back to the girls who were now playing truth or dare. One of the girls had just gotten dared to go walk out into the water she didn’t want to so she still did it because she didn’t want her friends to think she was a chicken. She went in and come right back out. The girls told her that’s not far enough go further. So she went further but the girls kept telling her to go further.

Finally True yelled “STOP IT”. “If you guys want to see someone get taken under water why don’t one of you?”

The girls looked at each other then made a plan. They left their victim out, which was Rachel. She was the one who was dared to go swimming. The girls decided to go in the water if Rachel would go in right after them. She said she wasn’t going to so the girls ganged up on her and pushed her in. Then, the water started bubbling the girls hurried out of the water, but Rachel was so far out in the water she was sure she was going to be sucked under. Instead she was thrown up on the beach, and the other girls were pulled under the water.

Rachel, ran up to were Truth was standing and said “did you see that?”

“Yeah, but it was for their own good but if they don’t come back in a while we’ll run for help.”

Then they heard someone say “got ya.”

Rachel, looked at Truth then back at the water. And said “is that not what someone or something say when Rachel jumped in?”

The girls waited for a while, then Truth said “let’s go and see what Mary’s grandmother was talking about.”

When they got to Mary’s grandmother whose name was Jean. The girls didn’t wait for someone to open the door; they just ran straight in. When, Jean saw them she knew exactly what had happened.

Though she didn’t have all the details so, Jean still asked “who was the first to go in the water?”

Truth said, “Mary was the first to jump in and then she disappeared.”

Jean looked very disappointed that her own daughter was the leader of the wrong pack.

She looked at the girls, and said “I’m very happy with you girls and glad that you listened to me. But, at the same time I am disappointed in Mary and the other girls for not listening. Mary not only got herself in trouble but also five other girls.”

That night, Jean, had a search party sent out in search of the girls. That night Jean explained why she had said not to go swimming. She explained the legend about a big sea monster that had been discovered, by her dad.

Jean said, “it only harms people who swim after the moon is full.”

Meanwhile, the search went on, but it was useless they didn’t find any sign of the girls. So the parents of the girls paid for special under water investigators and other under water equipment to come search underwater for any sighs of the girls. They found no signs of anything.

Weeks had passed and no one had seen anything. One day, when True was visiting Jean she got a long distance phone call. From someone saying that the night before last he had seen about six girls. Running through the woods and then dive into the

(Continued on page 7)
Bloody Mary . . . (Continued from page 6)

water. Jean immediately had a secret search crew sent there but they found nothing. Then, a couple days later Jean got another long distance call. That said they had caught five girls and were sure they were the missing girls. So, the girls were flown back to Igiugig.

They were the girls but Mary wasn't with them. Jean asked, "was there any more girls."

One of the men said, "no" this was it. And, no one ever found her, but to this day people call her Bloody Mary. So, beware she still roams with the lake monster. Also, be sure never to go swimming when there is a full moon. OR ELSE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

November LSAC News by Sandra Alvarez

The November LSAC Meeting was held on the 20th. Students Kevin, Christina, Ida and AlexAnna reported on their travel and activities at the recent AA Meet in Newhalem. They enjoyed the Asset Building presentation and a number of other workshops. Their speeches all went well and they all reported that they learned to write resolutions and enjoyed that activity very much. Thanks was given to Marie Nelson for chaperoning the kids.

Annie reported on her recent Preschool training in Kokhanok. It was interesting and useful in preparation for the school's regular preschool program starting up again next year when we have 3 three-year olds again.

Some calendar items that were noted are; a church fund raising dance on December 111st, our first annual Craft Fair on December 12th, the Christmas program on December 29th, minimum day December 31st with dismissal at 1 p.m. followed by the winter break, back to school (bright and early) January 16th, and the Teacher Inservice scheduled for February 24-26th.

Pumphouse Reminders By Sandra Alvarez

Please don't borrow cleaning items or supplies from the Pumphouse. This building needs to be cleaned often and it is very hard for people to do a good job if the brushes, brooms or other things are not there when they need them.

The windbreak door also needs to be closed when it rains or snows. So if you go there (or are driving by and see it open), please be sure to pull it shut. This saves time on cleanup and it will keep the building nice longer.

Campbell's Labels By Bernadette Andrew

We have 870 labels as of November 22. To reach our goal for the year we still need to collect 2080. Please bring any labels you have collected at home down to the office. Keep collecting labels!

More School News . . . (Continued from page 5)

TABLES STILL AVAILABLE

If you would like to sell your crafts at the Christmas Craft Fair come up to the school and purchase your table space. There are still lots of tables available.

Your only cost is:

Large Table $15.00
Medium Table $10.00
Small Table $5.00

WE'RE STILL LOOKING ............

Igiugig School is asking for donations of used clothing, household items, or ........ for resale at the Christmas Craft Fair. All proceeds will go to the Student Activity Fund.

We are also looking for any used Christmas cards.

Please send any items up to school or call and we would be happy to pick up.
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to all!
Christmas

S T U N T S E H C X R C E R V Q G D
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U K G G Z E W Y R Z N C F R W H G R
G G R E E T I N G C A R D S Y O T P
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Presents
Christmas Tree
Mistletoe
Sugar plums
Carols
Candy Cane
Sugar Cookies

Puzzle page