

Samantha Nickerson  
ANS 401: Summary  
Albert Wassilie

Nov. 22, 1988

Albert started of class by announcing he was going to read an article that was written for him by Jim ~~Karey~~. Albert says that Jim has written this article for Albert. He also says that Jim has worked in Albert's village studying their culture. Jim also knew all the people in the village. He also says that he learned a lot from Jim. Learning about the outside world.

The articl was mainly about how the land was divided up geographically in the saltwater regions. It said things like how the rivers and streams were divided up equally. At the end of the article, Albert said that his people didn't have to worry about this kind of stuff. The reason for him saying this was because they live in the interior region and not even near the saltwater regions.

The next topic Albert started talking about was how they got their religion. There was only one religion in that area. All through the aleutions and through out the Bristol Bay. It all consisted of the Russian Orthodox religion. They established this religion through the Russians when they were still in Alaska. When the Russians came, they were the first people to start Albert's people on the Russian Orthodox religion. There wasn't any kind of religion in the village until the Russians came to his hometown. So when the Russians came, this was the only religion they knew so they worshipped it and prayed so the ghost/great spirits would bother their families.

In 1884 there was a Russian priest. He came and told the people about the Russian Orthodox religion. The village people didn't even hesitate, they just joined the religion without even thinking about it. The village people at that time, thought it was really good that they belonged in a religion finally.

The very first time, the people thought it was a great thing to act on. This all happened in 1884 with the Russian Orthordox priest coming into their village. Since that time, everything was written in Russian. All the books in the Russian language. The people prayed in Russian and sang in Russian while in church. This continued up until 1940. Then the people started translating their Russian books like the Bible into English/American language. Even the Bible got translated into the American language. Now, the people use the American langauge more than ever in church. They rarely even use their Russian language.

When people got married, they had to get married under the Russian Orthodox religion. The only way they couldn't get married in that church was if they were under a different religion. You would have to get married elsewhere.

Albert started talking about some church laws they had established. An example would be the date Nov. 22. This is called a St. Michael holiday. The people go to church both in the morning and evening services when they had holiday dinners. All the food that was made was served in the community hall. All the special occasions they had were always held at the community hall in the village. Everybody eats lots and has tons of fun.

The people also celebrate Russian Christmas which could also be called Slavic. Russian Christmas unofficially starts on Jan. 6th. The actual date for it to start is on Jan. 7th. They start off by going to all the people's houses singing Christmas carols. After all this, all the village people go to the community hall for a big potluck celebration. Six different villages fly in on airplanes to celebrate Slavic with other villagers. Slavic goes on until Jan. 13th. Albert says this is where and how the church makes all of its money.

The last thing Albert talked about was how he taught himself to his language. He says he learned how to speak, write, and learn it in two weeks. He also learned how to translate his family names so he was making a family tree.

Throughout this summary, he talked about lots of other little things.