

Uta?klo·ko.

[s.l.]: [s.n.], 1970/1979

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Snowstorm

Long ago this happened and I was in it so that is how I know. I was fourteen when it happened. Along towards evening it began to snow. For three days and three nights it snowed. This was during the month of March, perhaps around the tenth of the month. When it stopped snowing, there was five feet of snow on the level ground but the snow was ten feet deep in the swamp. Then it melted and froze back in the evening. It crusted over. They had some ponies and sure enough they could drag and haul things without falling through. Once toward evening a man arrived to invite my father. He said, "I guess the way it has happened I've run out of meat. Maybe four of us could go hunting deer in the swamp. They say it usually full of them there."

My father said, "What time?"

The man said, "In the morning. We might be back right away. We could have good luck since there are so many there."

He said, "You can invite along my grandson and he'll drag a sled made of the pole they used to make them with. It is five feet long and they could load the deer on it."

So it happened that in the morning they set out. Two of us dragged the sled made of poles. Then we got to the swamp and went in. There was a runway perhaps three feet wide and five feet deep and where the runway extends a little bit the runways crossed. Now the hunters will scare them and they usually drop and run off. So we prepared ourselves for the hunt. One man said, "You'll take along a cow bell in this direction and when you find them, you will ring the bell and the rest of us will be waiting here."

Gosh, the hunters didn't even have a gun so each one cut a pole to hold and they stood apart lying in wait for the deer along the road. After a while the bell rang and then one many said, "Get ready and they will come running."

I was surprised when they appeared. Some of them turned at the crossroad and came right through as well. So then we slaughtered them. One of the deer, a small one, went through and the hunters missed over and over. Then they broke the snow along the sides where there was a good slope. So then they pulled them out and put them on the sled and tied them up. Then we came back home and when we arrived, we got busy and skinned them cut up the meat to divide it.