

I am lonesome," he said. "I did not realize I was singing out loud."

Talking together he learned her name was Maria and she that his was Pauloosie. He had been sick and blind for many years and she was 18 and full of the wonder of life.

"I do not know how old I am," he said. "There have been many Christmases and I know this one will be my last. I wish I could hear again the hymns we used to sing when I was young and had a family."

"Let me sing with you, Grandfather," Maria begged, taking his trembling hands into her own. "Do you remember *Silent Night, Holy Night*? I'll start it!"

Un-nuak Upin-nak!
 Ji-su-si Nuuta-rak
 Man-na Qie-vi-gi-va-ti-gut
 Paa-ngat Nu-na-ku-lu-ti-nut
 Qi-lu-ju-na Laq-luta
 Qi-lu-ju-ma Laq-luta

As she began to sing her clear young voice was joined in harmony by the



voice of the failing old man.

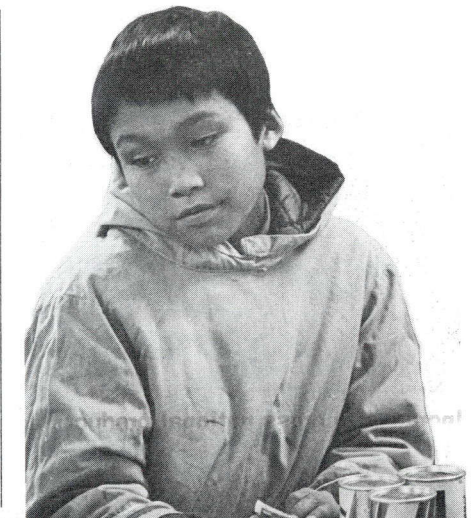
Un-nuak Upin-nak!
 Ingi-lit Ti-li-jat
 Qi-la-nu-nga-sa-juat,
 Tau-san-tit Ila-gi-lu-git
 Ig-ngik-puk, Ji-su-si Tav-va.
 Ig-ngik-puk, Ji-su-si Tav-va.

"Merry Christmas everyone!" It was the head nurse coming in. "I have a present for everyone this morning!" She began to pass around the gaily wrapped packages.

"I have my present," said the only man. "People who share, are gifts to each other."

"We will be a gift to each other, Grandfather," said Maria. "Each day I will come and see you." She gently lowered his shoulders to the pillow and kissed his forehead.

Back in the quiet of her room, Maria tore up the letter she had been writing and began again: "Dear mother and father: It is Christmas and though you are far away and I miss you, I am strangely happy today...."



1. Eskimo students awaiting their flight home for Christmas at Ottawa International Airport.

2. The school Christmas concert.

3. Time out from the party to buy some liquid refreshments.

4. With the Christmas parties there would be little fun without the games and dances.

