

caribou hides and the furs which were brought into camp by the men of the tribe, and the moccasins and clothing fashioned by her deft fingers were patterns which even the most experienced of the squaws despaired of copying.

She was the idol of her people.

The fame of her beauty and accomplishments reached a neighboring tribe who lived about a hundred miles to the south. The chief of this tribe heard about the princess, and it set him to thinking. If he could arrange a marriage between his son and this royal lady, it would serve a double purpose. Not only would the old quarrels over hunting and trapping grounds be settled, but it would bring to his son a wife befitting his station in the tribe. The old chief pondered over this for many days, and eventually decided to have his son and a few of his braves accompany him on a state visit to the Moosehides.

It was early in the month of June when they pushed their canoes into the Yukon and started downstream on their journey to the mouth of the Tron Deg River. Arriving at their destination they were met by the chief of the Moosehides, who escorted them to the royal wigwam. After a feast of moose and caribou, the chief of the neighboring tribe explained the object of his mission. In glowing terms he extolled the virtues of his son. Never was a young man born who was such a wonderful hunter and trapper. No brave in the world possessed such courage. Wouldn't it be to their mutual advantage if his host gave to the young suitor the hand of the princess in marriage?

The Moosehides were stunned. Such a thing as taking away their princess, the idol of every man, woman and child in the village, was unthinkable. Their chief was asked by his counsellors to forbid the match, or at least to delay proceedings until they had time to think it over. Possibly something might happen to prevent their princess being taken away from them. They hoped so, anyway.

The visitors were tired after their long journey and, being assured that on the morrow they would be told whether the hand of the princess would be given to the young suitor, they lay down to sleep. By this time the news had spread through the Moosehide camp like wildfire, and the chief was beseeched by his subjects to forbid the wedding. Waving them aside he called a council of his advisors in an adjoining wigwam, where they could discuss ways and means of retaining the princess and still not offending their visitors.

It was finally decided that a task too difficult for any brave to perform was to be given to the young suitor, and if he failed, he lost the hand of the princess. He would be asked to show his prowess as a hunter, in order that he might prove himself worthy of such a bride. He would agree to start out alone and return in one year with the skins of fifty grizzly bears, one hundred black bears, one hundred moose, one hundred caribou, and one thousand foxes.

The Moosehides were well pleased with the answer they had