

ST. PETER'S SCHOOL, BLACK TICKLE

presents

W W

CAST

Ed.....	Judy Keefe
Bob.....	Dinah Dyson
Liz.....	Sheila Keefe
Bessie.....	Cyndi Elson
Kerm.....	Corey Elson
Eli.....	Laura Keefe
Carmen.....	Trudy Morris
Sue.....	Wanda Keefe
Silent Character.....	Esther Keefe

MONOLOGUE

Judy Keefe

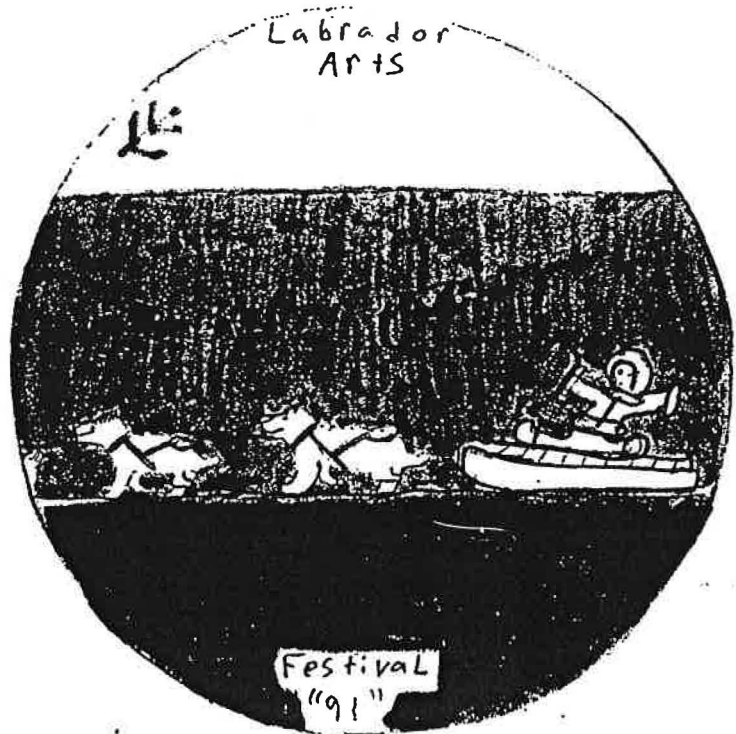
PROPS

Esther Keefe

TEACHER ADVISOR

Michele Breen

Terry Rice, Gr. 7
J.C. Erhardt Memorial
Makkovik



TITLE: "W W"

Scene 1:

As the play opens two fishermen are hauling their nets.(slowly) The song "Empty Nets" is playing. There is a faint light on the scene. The fisherman hold this pose for a few minutes.

Lights fade on this scene. Full lights are then focussed on the characters who begin the dialogue. It is late in the afternoon. Bob, Eli, and Kerm are gathered in the twine shed discussing the sad state of affairs.

Skipper Bob : Ah, boy don't worry we'll get our fish yet.

Kerm : Yes bye, we've been hearing that for a couple of weeks.

Eli : That's for sure, the old woman got up this morning and right off the bat started in complaining. She said she'd go right clean off the earth if she don't get some food. All the same she sure got far to go yet.

Liz : Yes bye,I heard ya. You won't be so pridy over here back bitting when there's no supper on the table for ya.

Bessy enters.

Bessy : I knows I seen ya coming down in the shed and I had to come down for a mise. The berries are some scarce. I almost got the backs of me legs worn off walkin' around tryin' to find a tuprey.

Kerm : Well, for sure those bakeapples aren't as scarce as them fish. Not even enough for a feed of fish and brewis.

Liz : I never thought I'd see the day come to Black Tickle when there wouldn't be enough fish to make a livin'.

Bessy : I can't stay and chaw. C'mon Liz. Let's go to the shop and see can I get a bill to get something for supper. (Shakes her head, pats her stomach). All the same, I believe I'm going right off the earth.

(The men nod and grin at each other .The women leave)

The remaining men are : Skipper Bob, Eli and Kerm

Eli : Well now Skipper Bob. How's ya managing with your bills ? Your light, phone, cable bills, and all that grub you can eat, while your waitin' for the fish to come ?

Skipper Bob : I'll manage the best I can. That cable is gonna have to go though. That will save on power and the old womans eyes from watchin' dem soaps, besides were not finished yet. Is that Ed comin' in the harbour ? I allows he got a bit of fish; he's gone all day.

Kerm : Let's go down boys and give him a hand to haul
 it all up.

(Ed throws up one small frozen fish on the wharf).

Eli : Stop that carrin' on now Ed, and pull that tarp
 an'show us the rest of em'.

Ed : What ya sees is what ya gets ! Up five o'clock this
 mornin' I was, just to get this one fish, guts already
 frozen. Wouldn't know but I just took it out of the
 freezer. (Ed ties on his boat and gets up with the men)
 This is my last day out; dem draggers got us ruined.

Kerm : That's it, Skipper Bob; you get on dat phone and
 call that Danny Dumarseque fella because we can't
 put up with anymore of this.

Eli : School is openin', Christmas is comin', not to mention
 that by next spring the wife will be off the face of
 the earth.

Kerm : Let's take our troubles up to the house and run it
 down with a glass of bean beer.

Skipper Bob : Bean beer ?

Kerm : Yes bye, thats all I can afford. A couple bags of
 beans, a bag of sugar, some water and a bit of power
 to heat it up. You'll get a good enough buzz off it.

(The song Empty Nets plays as characters walk over to
Kerms house).

Scene 2

Setting

Scene opens at Kerm's house where Skipper Bob is on the phone talking to Danny Dumerasque. Eli and Kerm are sitting around the table drinking bean beer, laughing, and talking.

Skipper Bob : Yes, Sir, my name is Bob Morris and I'm calling from Black Tickle. I would like to inform you of what's goin' on here in the fishery. The situation is unbearable, (short pause) yes, sir, unbearable is what I said. There's just enough money to live, no extra for sure, and you got to try and charge a bit of grub, some people can't do that.

(pause)

Yes, I know your doin' your best, but there's people here who just can't afford to wait on the best to happen. Some of the families in Black Tickle had their heat and light cut off 'cause they never had the money to pay the bills. The groceries that people got to buy is what they really needs, I spose that's the next to go. (Pause)

Let me finish what I got to say now, Danny Well, it's gettin' late in the year, don't ya think it's time to get us poor fellers some work ?

We're depending on ya, you knows
you got all our votes last year. (Pause)
All right then Danny I 'spect I'll be talking
to you again soon. I've takin up enough of your
time fer one day. If work don't soon start
you'll be hearing from me again.

(Bob hangs up)

Eli : Tell us what he had to say.

Skipper Bob : Well, that was a waste of me time. Danny said
that they already got make - work programs on
the go. We should be startin' next Monday. Now
I told you everything would work out.

Kerm : Work out, ya I 'spose. But I guess ya needs an arm full
of clothes to keep from freezing to death. This winter
- 50 below, I can imagine it tryin' to make our stamps.

Eli : Don't go depending on that ol' social worker until
ya gets ya first checks. The last time she was in she
gave me \$ 50.00 measly dollars, and I got a family to
feed. Me poor ol' buddie only got \$ 3.50.

(Bessi and Liz run in all out of breath, each with a
grocery bag in their hand).

Liz : Kerm, ya wouldn't believe what I just heard over to
the store. Work is startin' Monday.

Eli : We all knows Liz, maid. Bob was just talking to
Danny and he told us all about it.

(Liz is unpacking the groceries she got at the
store.)

Carman : Mom, did ya get me a bar up at the store.

Liz : Bar, bar, you're lucky you got something fer your dinner and supper let alone that ol' junk. There will probably come a time yet that you won't even have that much.

(child starts crying).

Carman : I only asked, you didn't need to jump down me throat.

(Carman leaves and goes to her room).

Kerm, Eli, and Bob

(drinking bean beer).

Kerm : Boy's, the jug is empty. It's time to fill er up.

Eli : I'll fill er up.

(he gets up and stumbles toward the cag of beer, he falls down in the corner).

Bob : I think you had one too many there, Skipper. Time for us to carry him home eh Kerm.

(They exit, Liz is left in the kitchen finishing unpacking her groceries).

Bessi : Oh my God Liz ! When's it all gonna end ? Youngsters needin' books and clothes. Not much food to even put on the table. How are we gonna make through the winter ?

(She breaks down and cries, and puts her hands over her face. Loud sobs can be heard).

Scene 3

It is the next morning. Bessy is coming out of the bedroom with her nightgown on and curlers in her hair. Eli is stretched out across the kitchen floor. Bessy trips over him but catches herself against the kitchen stove.

Bessy (kicks Eli) : Fer God's sake me son, get up off
 the floor. Is this the way your
 gonna spend the money when we makes
 it ?

Eli : Oh Bessy, go snarl up. If you weren't always on me
 back I wouldn't have me nose in the brew bucket.

Bessy : Well if I wouldn't on your back all the time
 you'd never do nothing. We got other things to
 look at, like the light bill, rather than your ol'
 brew bucket.

(The door burst open an Ed rushes in all out
of breath).

Ed : Eli, Eli.

Eli : Fer God's sake Ed by, have mercy on me poor ol' soul.
 I'm not across the harbour you know. Me head is
 pounding.

Ed : Well by your head is gonna really split when I tells
 ya the news.

Bessi: What do ya have to tell us now, me son?

Ed : I just came from over to Kerm's. Bob was over there and he told us he had a call from Danny Dumarasque and work starts nine thirty.

(Bessy goes over and gives Eli another poke).

Bessy : Ya hear that. You got ya chance to make money like ya was bawling about all summer. Get up now and get some breakfast while I get's ya clothes ready.

Lights Fade

(Flakes of snow are falling. The people are at the work site. They are constructing a recreational center).

Kerm : How is ya feeling today bye ? Your lookin' a little rough around the hedges. I know ya never got some goin' over this mornin' when the wife found ya on the floor.

Eli : I don't want to see no more of that ol' bean beer for a long time. It will be a while before I touch that ol' stuff again.

Sue (foreman) : Now fellers that's enough of your chawin'. Your not gettin' paid to stand around all day talkin'. Now Kerm, and Bob, you get the planks out by the shed, and Eli you start nailing down the floor. Just don't beat the fingers off yourself.

(Kerm, Bob, and Sue exit. Eli begins hammering).

Eli : Women, what do they know ? Gettin' a woman to do a man's job. One of us fellers would do a better job than her.

(Hammering away while talking, just as he gets out his last words he hits himself on the fingers. He bawls.)

Damn, this is not my day.

(Women come runnin')

Liz : My God, who was killed ?

Bessi : My heart won't stand ten weeks of this. If he don't kill himself on the brew, he'll do it with the hammer.
(Everything calms down. They continue working. It starts snowing really thick).

Ed : I bet you any money, there will be a storm before the day is through. I looked at the glass this mornin' and he's gone bottoms up. It'll take a week before he comes up again.

Sue : Okay now boys, put away the nails, the hammers , and saws, time to go home fer dinner.

(Kerm and Bob come back. Everyone is getting ready to go home).

Bob : Boy it's not lookin' very good out is it? Is there gonna be any work after dinner ?

Sue : We'll have to wait and see how it is. If it stays the same we'll come back, I'll phone ya if it get's any worse.

(Everyone exit and go home for dinner).

(Bessi, Kerm, and Carman are gathered getting ready for dinner).

Carman : It's some strange comin' home with no dinner on the table.

Kerm : That's something your gonna have to get used to my dear, cause we got ten weeks of this.

Liz : The weather seems to be gettin' even worse. Have ya got any more school any more the day Carman ?

Carman : No, the weather is too bad, do you have any work ?

Liz : I'm not.....

(The phone rings. Liz gets up to answer the phone).

Kerm : Is that Sue phonin' about work ?

Liz : Thanks a lot Sue.

(Hangs up the telephone)

First day of work, and there's a starm already.

Kerm : Well if it stays like dis' it's gonna take a lot more than ten weeks to get our measly ol' stamps.

Liz : Kerm by, the marrow might be a better day. I pray the Lard that next year you won't have to go on these stupid winter works, and there will be a bit of fish to catch.

(Person comes out on stage, and makes a short speech to the audience).

MONOLOGUE

Isn't it ironic that when the drama group was here three years ago and we did a play on the Inshore Fishery we had a positive outlook on the whole issue? However, this year we had no good points to talk about except for the winter works program which is just another job that pays a few more dollars than welfare. We've all tried to think positive about the situation, but that's kind of hard to do when you're right in the middle of it all. Many of the fishermen are coming home to their families with nothing for them to eat. This is almost the hardest thing a man could ever do.

The percentage of drop outs is high in Black Tickle, but if things stay the same they will be forced to go back to school. If it soon doesn't change the people will have to settle somewhere else. If you are involved with the fishery, without an education you have nothing, and no hope for a good future. Yet people are determined to stay in their community no matter what the situation is. I pray to God every night, before I go to sleep, that we will all get out of this mess. But the future doesn't hold much promise for Black Tickle. Maybe the fishery will get better, then again, if it doesn't, Black Tickle might become a ghost town. Because there is no fish, there is no money, and people are in debt so far that they don't think they will ever come out on top again. This is the situation of our Inshore Fishery. Will there be one next year? Or will there be just empty nets and winter works?