

# BERINGIAN HERITAGE Sketchbook

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT  
OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ON MICROFILM

Color Scans  
4/28/2005

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Чтобы объединиться, люди должны суметь увидеть друг друга через преграды, воздвигнутые политикой. Они должны понять, что красота не определяется исключительно политическими воззрениями, а принадлежит всем жителям Земли. Природа — это средство достижения взаимопонимания.

Евгений Евтушенко  
«Разделенные близнецы»

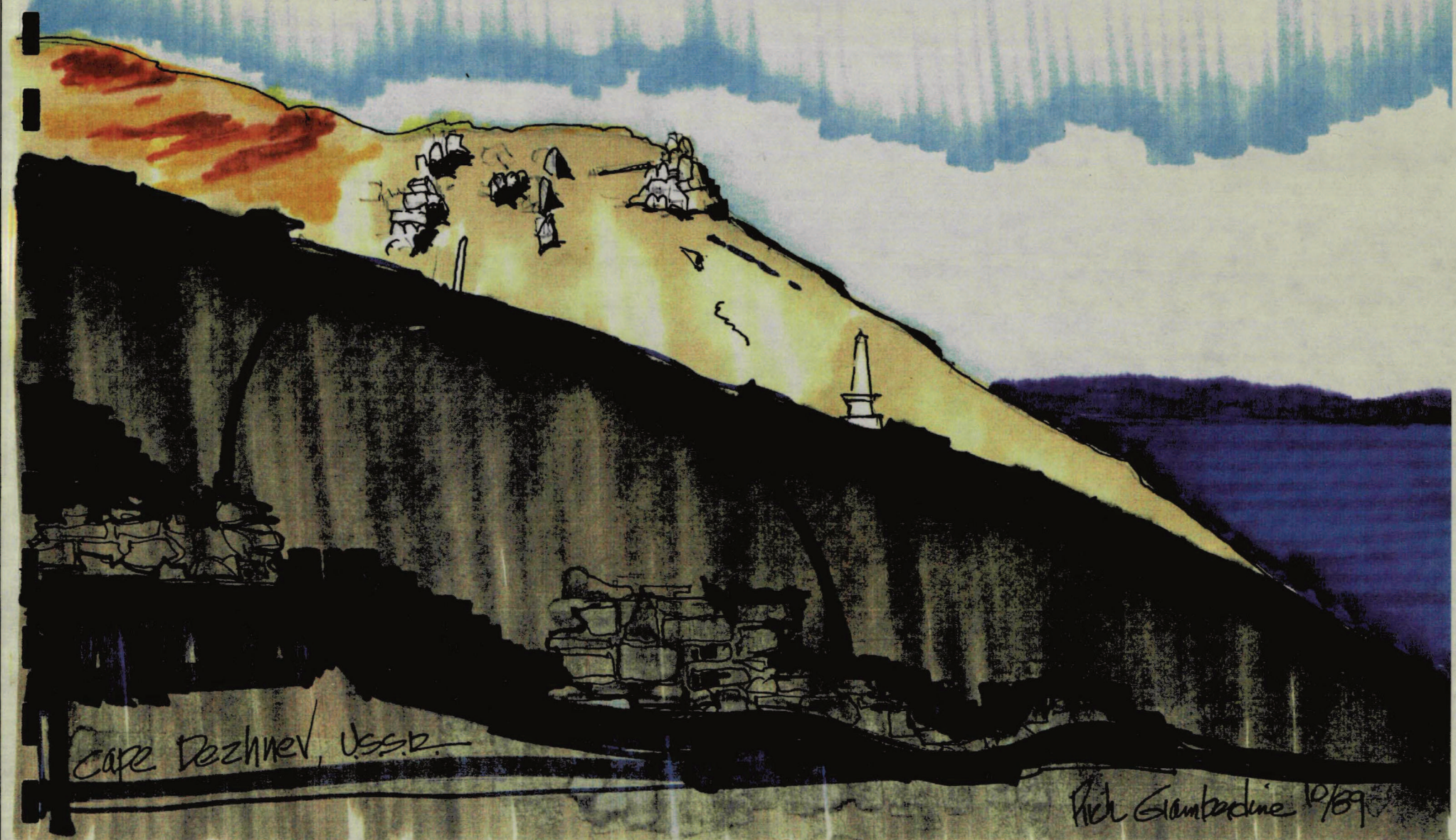
*In order to come together, people must see each other even through the walls erected by politics, and understand that beauty is not the exclusive property of politics but the common property of all the inhabitants of the earth. Nature is a potential means of mutual understanding.*

Yevgeny Yevtushenko  
*Divided Twins*





Natural and cultural resources of international significance exist on both sides of the Bering Strait – plants, animals, and Eskimos all share a common heritage and present tangible proof that the North American and Asian continents were once connected by a great land bridge. Across that bridge walked the first people to inhabit North America. An international park would celebrate this region's common heritage and formalize a joint effort to preserve that natural and cultural legacy. Such a park would also create a dramatic symbol of cooperation between two world superpowers.







The establishment of an international park will bring about increased communication and greater cooperation between Soviet and American authorities in the conservation and management of landscapes, wildlife, and fisheries. It will also provide a means to address circumpolar environmental issues. Perhaps the greatest impact of this action will be on the Eskimos, who have called this region their homeland for thousands of years. Already as a result of study recommendations, Chukchi, Uplak, and Inupiat natives are freer to come and go throughout their traditional homeland. Everywhere the team met with Eskimos, we were impressed with their desire to be reunited with their families and to be able to preserve their culture. As the mayor of Lavrentiya, Yuri Tottoto, told the team, "We see the national park as a unit to support our traditions."

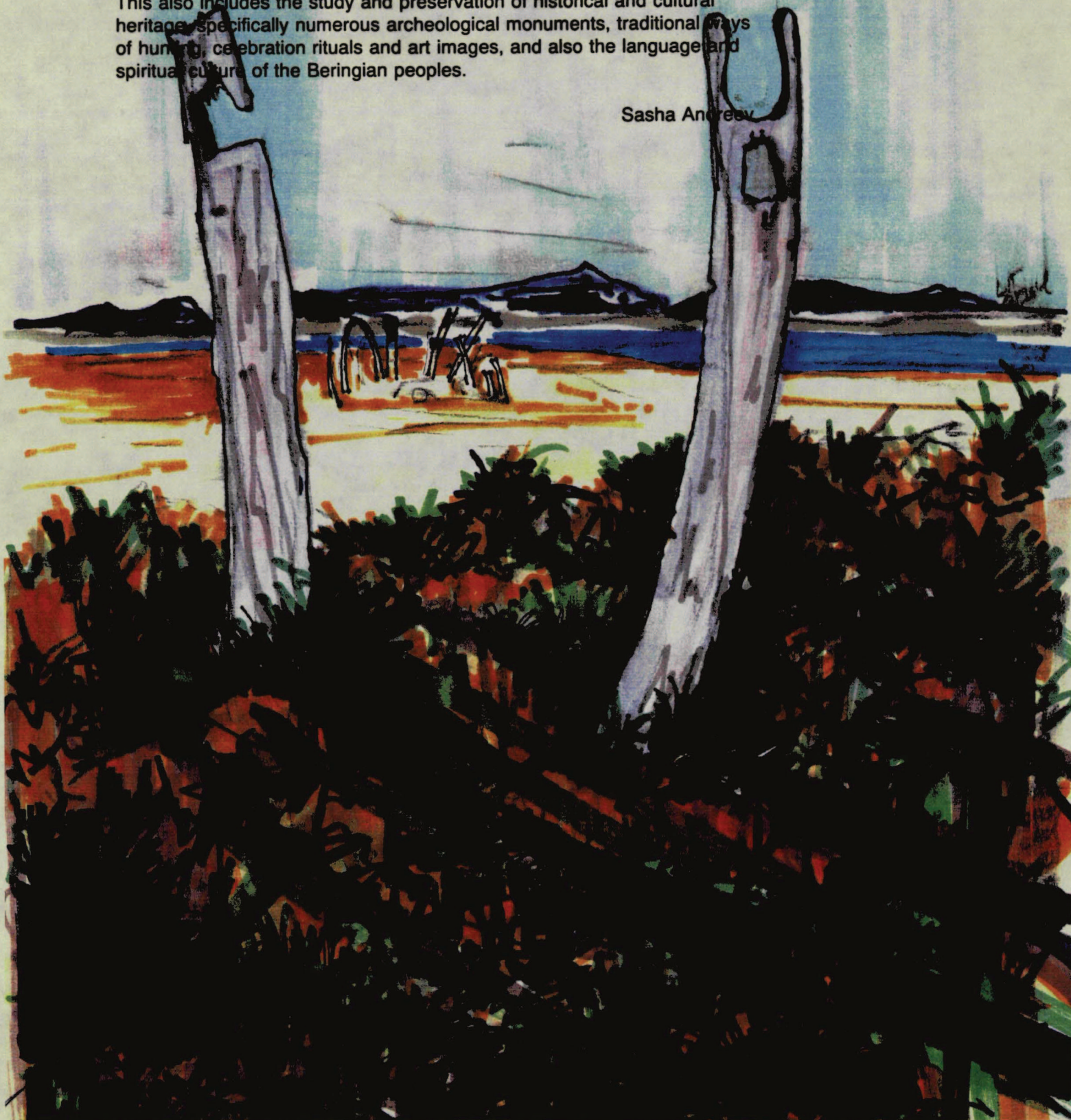
Rich Giamberdine

ESKIMO GIRL  
LAVRENTIYA, USSR  
Rich Giamberdine 9/80



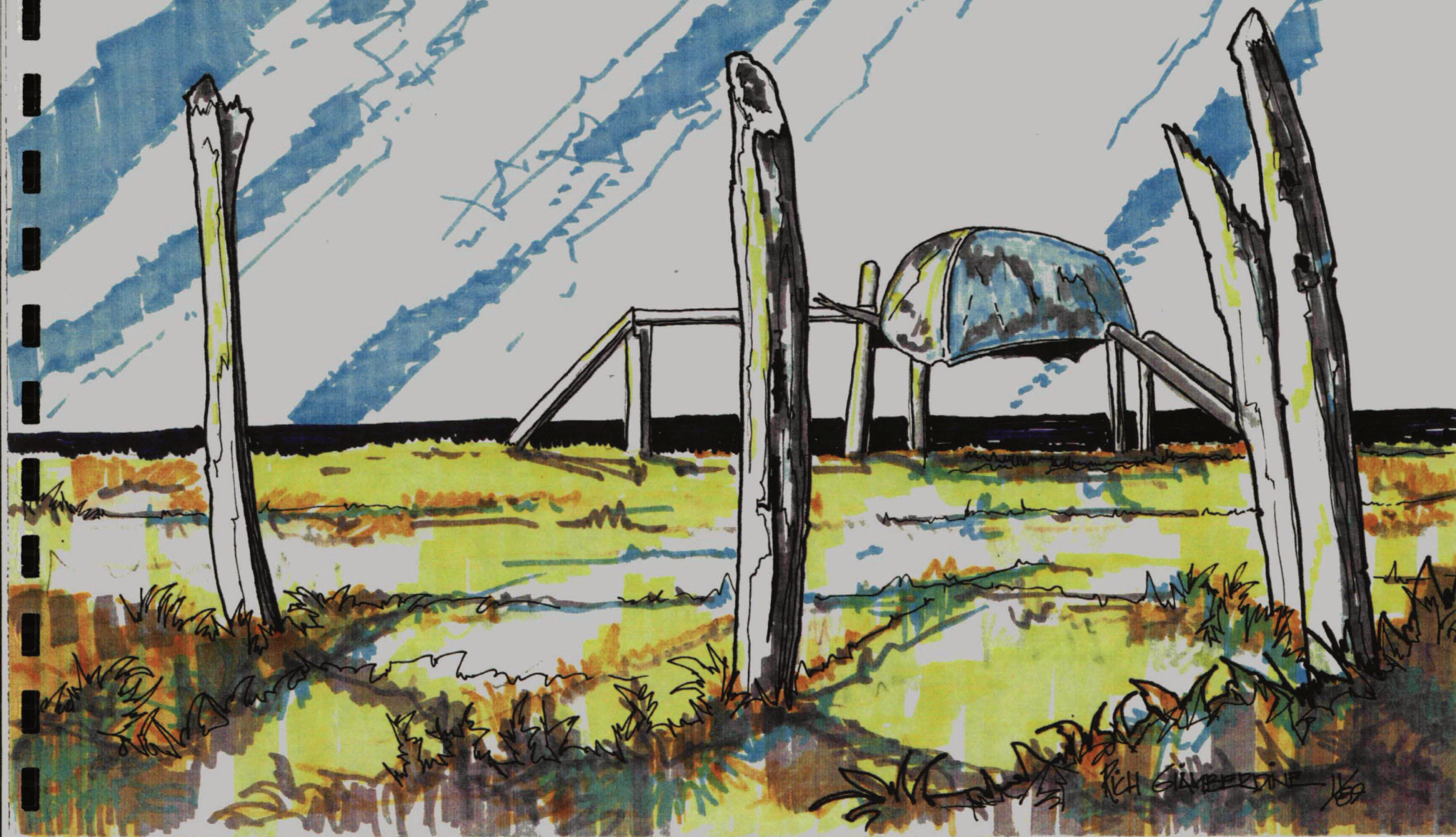
The main goal is to preserve the diversity and harmony of this unique area of the biosphere, which is the source of subsistence for the peoples of Beringia – Eskimos and Chukchis. The preservation of Beringian heritage includes maintaining the ecological balance, as well as clean air, seawater, and freshwater; supporting the diversity of flora and fauna; managing subsistence resources; and protecting many unique natural phenomena. This also includes the study and preservation of historical and cultural heritage, specifically numerous archeological monuments, traditional ways of hunting, celebration rituals and art images, and also the language and spiritual culture of the Beringian peoples.

Sasha Andreyev





Native people on both sides of the Bering Strait share a common language, arts, traditions, and ceremonies, and their lifestyles depend on the subsistence use of resources. The recommendation to create an international park, consisting of an existing national park in the United States and a newly created preservation unit in the Soviet Union, would promote cooperation among nations, preserve natural and cultural sites, and provide opportunities for the coordinated administration of resources.



KEH GILBERTINE 1989



On a clear day from the high ground of Big Diomed Island, one can see, with a turn of the head, the remnants of the great land bridge that once connected the Asian and North American continents. Those land remnants and the people who inhabit them, though separated by the sea, have retained much of their common heritage.





At Ratmanova (Big Diomedes) many converging thoughts struck; recent political history, the tyranny of boundaries, the power of place, the imposing geography of two continents, and our desires to build a dream across a bridge of hope.

Rich Giamberdine



Big Diomedes, USSR to Little Diomedes, USA

Rich Giamberdine 10/09



This project involves environmental stewardship as the means of building a bridge of friendship and cooperation between the people of Alaska and Chukotka, as well as between the United States and the Soviet Union. The report addresses common challenges, such as preserving northern cultures, protecting the arctic ecosystem, and promoting landscape stewardship among the nations of the world.

Rich Giamberdine





Pinakul, September 9. We were in wet tundra all the way – a new experience for me. Tussocks of dry grass rise out of water that is melted permafrost. The water is everywhere, on hilltops, in valleys. Walking on it causes one to stop and go, turning ankles, occasionally stepping in water so deep that it overtops a boot, filling it with water.

On our way out with the light becoming long and south, we saw a snowy owl. Dead white, it sat on the rounded ridgeline ahead of us. As we approached it would fly to the next ridge. Always one ahead of us. Finally it glided down a canyon and out over the ocean. Owls are mystic birds. White ones more so.

Denis P. Galvin





We flew up a lagoon, then a river to an excellent wetlands (several tundra swans). Landed on the Chegitun River near same place we landed yesterday after seeing a large school of arctic char. Some tried fishing, but couldn't cast into the wind. Bear tracks (small female, or cub) and human tracks in sand. Denny found a point, gave to Dr. Tein (point shown in a book he had, 1800 to 1930s as they didn't change points, common). Flew on north along the coast, but had to turn back due to fog. Passed a large walrus haul-out (marked on map). I did not see it as it was on wrong side of helicopter.

Dale Taylor

Chegitun River George





At Mechigmen are the intact ancient villages of the Punuk Eskimos (whale hunters). This undisturbed site is enhanced by its scale, the number of dwelling units, and evidence of whale bones that were used in home construction and in ceremonial artwork.

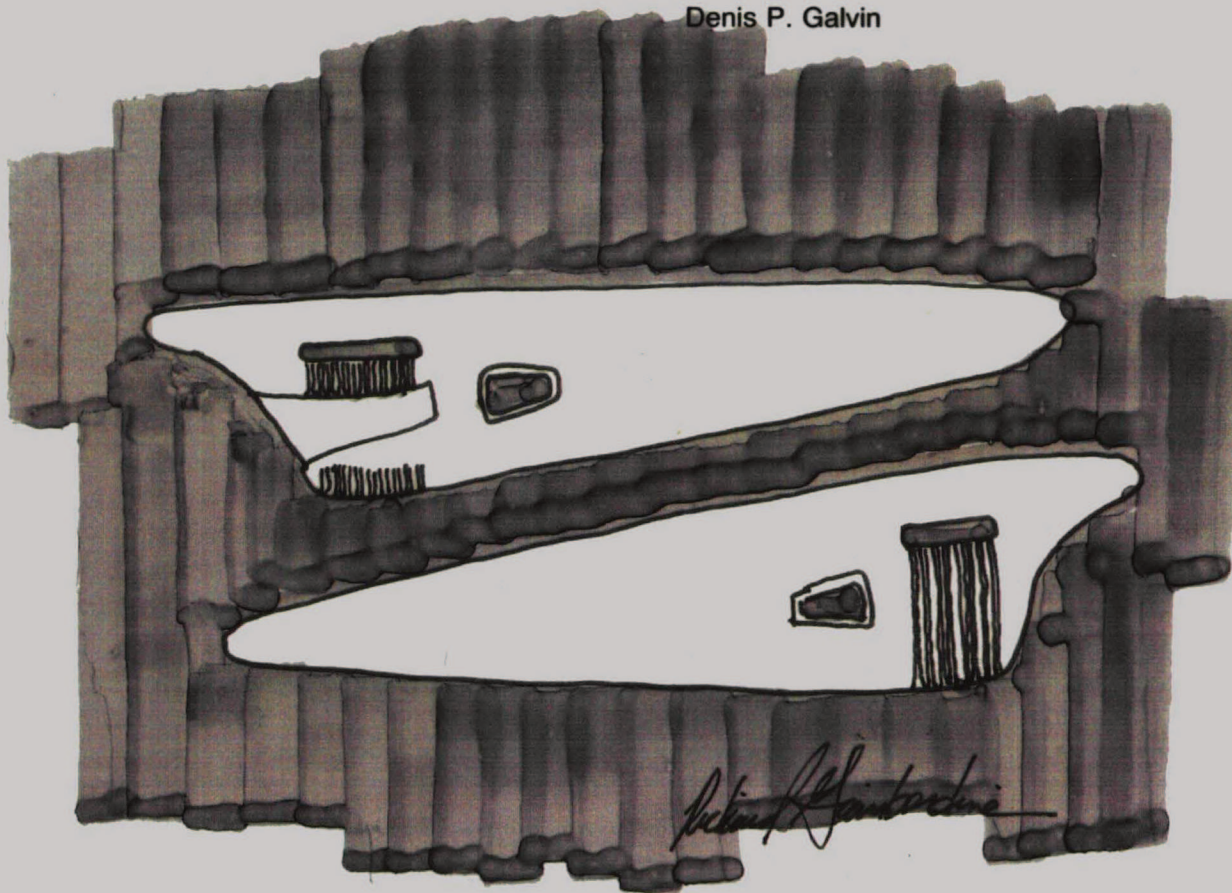




Chegitun River, Eastern Siberia, September 14, 1989. The sun is warm on the expansive sand banks and in the low spots out of the wind it's almost pleasant. I see fox, wolverine, and bear tracks and find an exquisite ivory spear point. I give it to Tacyan Sergeovitch who says it could be anywhere from 4,000 years old to early 20th century. The technology was stable that long.

One thousand words on thirty days in far eastern Siberia and northwest Alaska – where to begin, what to say? It is a cascade of impressions. At one level it is where we went, what we saw, the sense we tried to make of it in the report. At another, it is the emotion left by the immense land, its animals, and its people.

Denis P. Galvin





Noatak, September 22. A 95-year-old man spoke Inupiat and Jonas Ramoth, a park ranger translated. He welcomed the Russians and spoke of the time when he went back and forth to the Siberian side. In a moving gesture, he gave Ivanov his mittens, "From the oldest man to the oldest man."





At the airport at 9 a.m. and flew to Wales where we landed, but the others couldn't due to high winds, so we all went on to Shishmareff. The people there were great with the greetings, lunch at school, meeting with the community and school children for about an hour. The mayor, Bill Barr, gave each of us an ivory Billinkin. Toured the school, the ivory carving training room, bilingual classroom, the Native store, saw polar bear hide and flew directly home to Nome. Rough landings by two of three planes as high winds. A float was bent on the Goose.

Dale Taylor

Village of Shishmareff, Alaska





It is three weeks since my return. Even by Washington standards it's sultry for a late October afternoon. The tundra is far away. Only in the mind can I capture the fog rolling down the sea cliffs, the wind driving the Chukchi Sea over a northern beach strand, a child's grave high on a hill above Yttygran's whale alley. Does the seven-thousand word report do this experience justice? No. But the creation of a park would be a gesture of reverence to all the human and earth history that is written there, and to the beauty that Beringia has written on our hearts.

Denis P. Galvin





At this moment in our history I could think of no more appropriate a task for the park service than the establishment of an international park spanning Beringia. It brings together the elements of natural history and human history that lie at the core of the park service's heritage as a conservator and interpreter. It serves as a monument to the people of the Americas, and it signals, in its way, the dismantling of our own Berlin Wall.

Barry Lopez





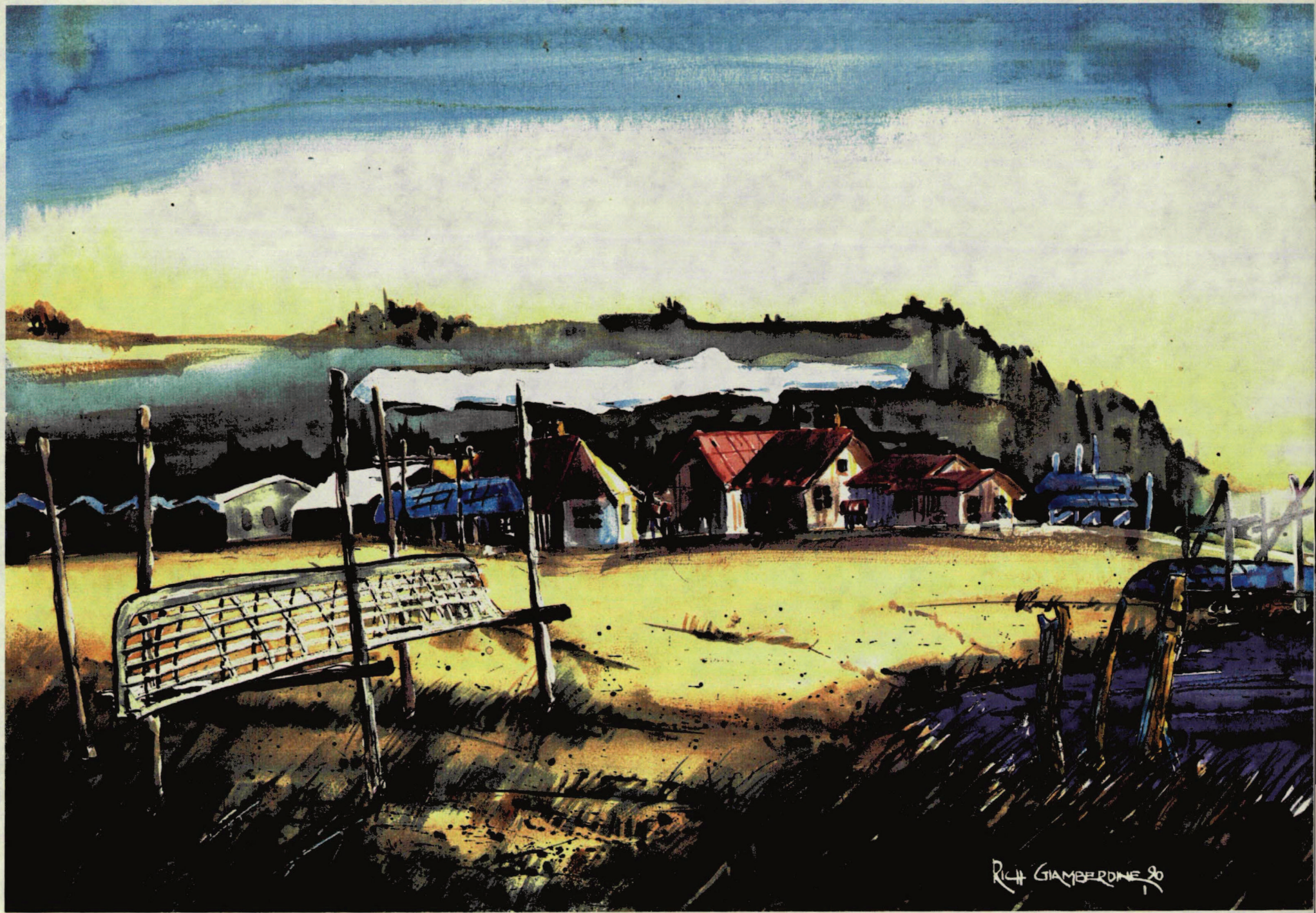


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