

Nelson Lagoon Alaska: 1985

Compiled by the Students of Nelson Lagoon School

Head Teacher: Lew Grimes

Teachers: Dottie Grimes
Rich Little

Students: Glen "Fred" Nelson, K
Melinda Nelson, 1
Craig Rysewyk, 2
Valarie Johnson, 2
Leona Nelson, 4
Herbert Johnson, 5
Merle Brandell, 6
Sharlene Nelson, 6
Tammy Brandell, 7
Ernest Mobeck, 7

Students: Lila Johnson, 8
Diane Orloff, 8
John Nelson, Jr., 9
Carpa Orloff, 9
Allen Brandell, 11
Harold Johnson, Jr., 11
Maryanna Johnson, 11
Mark McNeley, 11
Katie Mobeck, 11
Ellen "Lori" Johnson, 12
Larry Johnson, 12
Michael McNeley, 1

(All graphics/photographs and their captions have been deleted)

(The table of contents and hypertext were added, 2008)

Original	page number	Topic
	2	Acknowledgement
	2	Grades K-12 Participation
	2	Introduction & History
	2	Population
	2	Economy
	3	Housing
	3	Government
	3	Land Ownership and Alaska
	3	Native Claim Settlement Act
	4	Transportation & Mail Service
	5	School
	5	Utilities - Electricity, Heat,
	5	Water Supply, Sewer, and

Original	page number	Topic
	5	Solid Waste Disposal
	6	<i>Photos of village structures (DELETED)</i>
	7	<i>More photos of village structures (DELETED)</i>
	7	<i>and Map of village (DELETED)</i>
	7	List of Structures
	8	Health Services
	8	Other Structures and Services
	8	Natural Resources and
	8	Environment
	10	Recreation
	11	Directory (of community organizations)
	12	Residents by household

Original publication's page 2 begins

Acknowledgement

This community profile of Nelson Lagoon, Alaska, is a compilation of contributions prepared by the students at Nelson Lagoon School as a part of the Aleutian Region School District's Indian Education

Program 1984-85. Specifics were verified by appropriate sources in and out of the community. The format and outdated base information substantially came from a community profile of Nelson Lagoon, Alaska dated May, 1978 which was prepared by the University of Alaska's Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center for the

Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs. Major resources for current information were the residents of Nelson Lagoon, Volumes III and IV of the Taniisix, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Wilderness Review, and Plan for the Izembek National Wildlife Reserve dated September, 1984, and a bulletin released by Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. in March, 1985.

Grades K-12 Participation

Process - This was a year-long, interdisciplinary study including language arts, social studies, science, art, photography, computer applications, publications, and Indian Education.

Product - The "profile" will be a valuable resource. It will complement and make relevant those topics presented in the

American Book Social Studies Series (K-6), civics (8), and Alaska History/Geography/Government (9 - 12).

Senior Editor - Mark McNeley

Editors - Ellen "Lori" Johnson, Mike McNeley, Katie Mobeck (editing group leaders)

Directory - Maryanna Johnson

Map - Mark McNeley

Verification with Community Members - Harold "Breezie" Johnson

Head Photographer - Larry Johnson

Head Darkroom Technician - Harold "Breezie" Johnson

Layout - Katie Mobeck, Mark McNeley

Local copying & collation - Diane Orloff, John Nelson

Editorial Advisor - Thomas "Lew" Grimes

Photographic Advisor - Rich Little

Introduction & History

Prepared by Mark McNeley, Grade 11

Nelson Lagoon is a small community principally made up of small independent, family-owned fishing operations. The community of Nelson Lagoon is located about 550 miles west-southwest

of Anchorage and 80 air miles northeast of Cold Bay on the north shore of the Alaska Peninsula. The village is on a narrow, low-lying sand spit that separates the Lagoon from the Bering Sea. Once a seasonal native fish camp, today the village is a permanent community where commercial fishing is its economic base. Historically, Peter Pan Seafoods, which operates a cannery in Port Moller, has provided tenders for Nelson Lagoon's fishermen. Recently, several shipboard processors have operated in Nelson Lagoon as well. Within the last five years, major construction has been improving life in the community. A new school and state owned airstrip have been built. Also a safe water and fire fighting system has been installed. The State has developed plans to construct a dock at one of three alternate locations. The village's name was derived from the name given the Lagoon in 1882 in honor of an early explorer for the U.S. Signal Corps, Edward William Nelson.

Population

Prepared by Katie Mobeck, Grade 11

Nelson Lagoon has a unique population as many residents are related and most are of both Aleut and Scandinavian descent. There are 20 households and 68 residents in Nelson Lagoon. Usually not all residents are in the village at the same time because many travel elsewhere in the winter and fish elsewhere in the summer. The airstrip, school, safe water project, and already approved HUD housing are some of the recent and planned physical improvements that will induce new growth.

Economy

Prepared by Mark McNeley, Grade 11

A mere thirty years ago, Nelson Lagoon had a subsistence economy* Today, Nelson Lagoon's economy depends primarily on commercial salmon fishing. Currently, one or more members of almost every household has a drift and/or set permit and operates one or more boats. Several residents are involved in other community employment including teachers, school custodian and maintenance, and the management and operation of fuel, water, and electric utilities. Other enterprises include boat storage for non-residents' boats and the Bering Inn. In the recent past, oil companies drilled an exploratory well on shore eighteen miles west of Nelson Lagoon at David River. Thirty miles beyond David River is another capped oil well at Cathedral River. In the future, oil companies may be drilling offshore near Nelson Lagoon. SOHIO completed three weeks of seismographic testing in the fall of 1984. If production begins, it could mean jobs for the community. There is also some concern that an oil production accident could harm the fishing industry of Nelson Lagoon.

Housing

Prepared by Katie Mobeck, Grade 11

Nelson Lagoon has 21 houses built on pilings or concrete foundations. Most are lived in year around. A few houses are used only in the summer. The living area of the homes run

Original publication's page 3 begins

from a little less than 1000 square feet to 2000 square feet. Seven homes have an attached garage. All have outside storage or a shed. Half of the homes were built before 1960. The other half were after 1971. All homes have modern plumbing and lighting. Most homes have central heating; five have oil heaters or stoves. Most homes are comfortably furnished, some are ornately furnished. HUD has approved construction of at least ten houses for Nelson Lagoon; the start date is yet undetermined.

Government

Prepared by Harold "Breezie" Johnson, Jr., Grade 11

The village of Nelson Lagoon is unincorporated and lies within the unorganized borough, and therefore, area planning and development of public services is under the direction of the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs. The traditional

Village Council is recognized as the means to conduct native community affairs; the terms of office for council members are not limited. The council serves as a primary channel of communication between the community and other agencies. Law enforcement depends on the state trooper detachment at Sand Point or Naknek. Governance of the school and the school district is described in a separate section. Voters are registered in Alaska election district 26, and their voting precinct is at Sand Point, which is an expensive, 25-minute, 40-mile flight away, weather permitting; therefore, voters vote by absentee ballot. Residents are represented by seat "L" in the Alaska Senate and seat 26 in the Alaska House of Representatives. Nelson Lagoon is in the State's 3rd Judicial District. The nearest District Court is at Cold Bay which is presided over by a Magistrate.

Land Ownership and Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA)

Prepared by Harold "Breezie" Johnson, Jr., Grade 11

The Nelson Lagoon Corporation, the village profit corporation formed in accordance with ANCSA of 1971, has 54 stockholders; most are residents of the village. They are also stockholders of The Aleut Corporation, the regional native corporation established under ANCSA. The Nelson Lagoon Corporation owns and operates the Nelson Lagoon Fuel Company. Pursuant to ANCSA, the Nelson Lagoon Corporation has selected all unpatented land in the township in which the village is located plus the equivalent of approximately two townships of adjacent lands. After the U.S. Bureau of Land Management conveys land title to the Corporation, the Corporation will reconvey title to the surface estate to third parties which have historically used or now occupy these lands. To date, third parties have submitted applications for their claims. As part of this reconveyance process, title to a minimum of 1,280 acres must be transferred to the municipality. In the case of Nelson Lagoon, which is not incorporated as a municipality, these lands will be held in trust

Original publication's page 4 begins

by the Municipal Lands Trustee, Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs. The land will be conveyed to any future municipal government.

Transportation & Mail Service

Prepared by John Nelson, Jr., Grade 9, and Diane Orloff, Grade 8 the village of Nelson Lagoon is only accessible by sea or air as there are no roads connecting the village to any other communities. With its shallow harbor and no docking facilities, the village heavily depends upon marine shippers with low-draft equipment for delivery of freight and supplies, petroleum products, and winter provision. Air transportation is expensive and sometimes difficult due to weather conditions. Sand Point is only 40 air miles away from the village, and Cold Bay is a full 80 air miles SW; however, Cold Bay is much more accessible because of weather, traffic patterns, and services at Cold Bay.

In 1982, Peninsula Airways, Inc. attained the mail carrier contract and began a twice-weekly scheduled air service (passenger and freight) to Nelson Lagoon on mail delivery days. Air charter to Cold Bay can usually be arranged with an 18-hour notice. Regularly scheduled airline service is available at Cold Bay.

The airstrip, the road between the village and the airstrip, and the building on the apron are state-owned. The airstrip, 2 miles east of the village, is 3400 feet long and 60 feet wide, and the road itself is about 22 feet wide. The building houses maintenance equipment for the airstrip including a motor grader.

Also, a grassy strip on the west end of the village is still used on occasion.

No aviation services (gas, oil, hanger, mechanic) are available at the airstrip. There are no navigational aids, but there is a Remote Communications Outlet (RCO) located at Nelson Lagoon and controlled by the flight service station at Cold Bay. Because of these conditions, all flights are under Visual Flight Rules subject to weather conditions and daylight. Weather suitable for VFR flying (based on ceiling and visibility data from Port Moller) occurs 76 percent of the time, but is slightly less favorable in summer (64 to 80 percent) than in winter (80 to 83 percent). Surface winds hazardous to flying occur less than one percent of the time.

The majority of the goods coming into the community arrive by sea, and historically, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has arranged for shipment of cargo from Seattle to Nelson Lagoon once each spring via the North Star III. The North Star III offloads LCM's to transport cargo (including petroleum products) between ship and shore. The Western Pioneer Line brings cargo to nearby Port Moller at least six times during the May-September period; one or two deliveries are made at Nelson Lagoon. Lead time for delivery is at least five weeks. Peter Pan Seafoods often facilitates

Original publication's page 5 begins

orders and transports them to Nelson Lagoon via tender from Port Moller.

The village has no paved roads, and travel on roads in and out of the village requires off-the-road vehicles.

For local transportation there are 43 three-wheel all terrain vehicles (ATC's), 32 four-wheel drive vehicles, 8 snowmobile (Ski-doo's), 4 snowsleds (powered by airplane engines and wood propellers), and various other vehicles.

Mail service is poor in spite of the cooperative effort by the postal employees at Cold Bay. As signified by its assigned, but rarely used postal zip code 99695, Nelson Lagoon has "no official post office" (NOP). Mail is routed to the Cold Bay Post Office and brought to the village by air carrier twice weekly. It is then hauled to the community building and sorted by a nonpaid community member, and placed in individual open cubicals. Neither the building nor the cubicals are secured. Because Federal Aviation Administration rules allow, there is little room for mail and/or grocery orders from Cold Bay on "mail" flights when several passengers with baggage arrive on mail day (Monday and Thursday.) Also, foul weather can cause a backlog. Mail for Nelson Lagoon is frequently misrouted. Residents frequently receive billing by first class mail 4 weeks prior to the arrival of orders shipped by parcel post. Too often mailed parcels never reach Nelson Lagoon. Allegedly, parcels are being misrouted to other communities with NOP and the same 99695 zip code. It is a certainty that if one uses 99695 as a zip code on a magazine, book club, or record club subscription, distributors select zip codes other than 99695. The distributor-selected codes are usually Anchorage zip codes 99501 and 99502, and distributors sometimes add Anchorage as the city of destination with Nelson Lagoon listed above Anchorage.

School

Prepared by Maryanna Johnson, Grade 11

Nelson Lagoon School was constructed and opened in 1960. The first student to attend high school right in the community began the ninth grade in 1976. Later in the year she was joined by two other ninth graders, and the first high school class graduated in May, 1980. A new school building with space totaling 6,174 gross square feet was opened during the 1980-81 school year; instructional space totals 3,658 square feet (three classroom areas at 745 square feet each, a media center/gym, and the vocational room is also used for storage. At the dedication at the close of the 1980-81 school year, the school's official name became Charles J. Franz High School and Nelson Lagoon Elementary School. The school's enrollment has continued to grow and at the end of October in 1982 reached a total of 23 students in grades K-12. Beginning with only one teacher in 1960, a second teacher was added in 1978, and a third was added for the 1982-83 school year. The present school staff includes three full-time teachers, a half-time custodial worker and a part-time maintenance person. One teacher serves as head teacher and is the site administrator.

The Aleutian Region School District (ARSD), established in 1976 as a Rural Attendance Area, is empowered to administer six schools stretching almost 1,300 miles from Atka on the western end of the Aleutian Chain to Nelson Lagoon on the Alaska Peninsula. The District is governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors, and administered by a Superintendent and a professional and technical staff which is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the District as well as providing supervision and support to the on-site teaching staff. An elected five-member community school committee performs the function of an "advisory school board" and serves as a primary channel of communication between the community and the ARSD's Board of Directors. Enrollment at the school (October each year) since establishment of ARSD in 1976 follows:

1976-77	10
1977-78	19
1978-79	18
1979-80	23
1980-81	19
1981-82	16
1982-83	23
1983-84	22
1984-85	22

An education activity outside the domain of the Aleutian Region School District is the adult education program which is under the direction of the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association which is under contract with the State. The program has vocational offerings and instruction for a high school Graduate Equivalency Diploma.

Utilities- Electricity, Heat, Water Supply, Sewer, and Solid Waste Disposal

Prepared by Allen Brandell, Grade 11; Ellen Lori Johnson, Grade 12; and Mike McNeley, Grade 12

Local service utilities include electricity, water, and fuel. All homes and the school receive electric power via a below ground grid system recently installed by the State Division of Energy and Power Development and now owned and operated by the Nelson Lagoon Electrical Cooperative, Inc. The powerplant consists of three generators: a 125-KW, a 75- KW, and a 60- KW. A few private generators, formerly the only power source, are wired into the system but are not operating. The Nelson Lagoon Fuel Company, a subsidiary of the Nelson Lagoon (Native) Corporation, has eight fuel tanks for storage of diesel and stove oil located east of the village. The company purchases fuel at bulk rate and retails it. Delivery of fuel to customers' location is not a service provided by the company.

Original publication's page 6 begins

(Photos of village Structures, deleted)

Original publication's page 7 begins

(More photos of village Structures and map of village, deleted)

List of Structures

1. 800-Foot, Grassy Airstrip
2. Doug Isaacson's Residence
3. Safe Water Project
4. John Nelson's Residence
5. Polly Nelson's Residence
6. William Johnson, Jr.'s Residence
7. Jack Nelson's Residence
8. Power Generator Building
9. Johnny Nelson's Former Residence
10. Teacher's Residence
11. Paul E. (Butch) Gundersen's Residence
12. Paul M. Gundersen's Residence
13. Allen Nelson's Former Residence
14. Allen Nelson's Residence
15. William Johnson, Sr.'s Residence
16. Kenny Brandell's Residence
17. Bering Inn Apartments
18. Harold Johnson, Sr.'s Residence
19. Harold Johnson, Sr.'s Shops, Storage & Warehouse
20. Community Bldg/Alascom Bldg/Satellite Dish
21. Paul M. Gundersen's Shop & Storage
22. Kathy Gundersen's Residence
23. Lawson Snodgrass's Business Address
24. Alex Orloff's Former Home & Shop
25. Alex Orloff's Residence
26. Tommy Johnson's Residence
27. Scow/Boat Tie-up
28. Sherman Johnson Boat Storage
29. Sherman Johnson, Jr.'s Residence
30. Danny Johnson's Residence
31. Richard Johnson's Residence
32. Leona Johnson's Residence
33. Sherman Johnson's Shop & Storage
34. Nelson Lagoon School

Original publication's page 8 begins

Before the Safe Water System was installed in 1983, most houses and the school had individual wells, but the water was too salty to drink. This water was used primarily to wash clothes and flush toilets. The water was recorded at parts per million: iron, 0.32 ppm; total dissolved solids, 550 ppm; and hardness, 130 ppm. For drinking water most villagers drove about 16 miles west of the village to collect water from a fresh water lake. The village now has a safe water and fire protection system. Water is pumped from a distant lake into a 602,000 gallon holding tank. An underground delivery system runs to individual houses.

Along with the new water system, fourteen fire hydrants were installed. Each of the hydrants is positioned for maximum coverage. To aid fire fighting, there are several suits of protective clothing. Each household is equipped with large

chemical extinguishers and smoke detectors supplied by the village.

The new school is the only building with its own sprinkler system. Water for the sprinkler system is provided by a 5,000 gallon storage tank, fire water pump, and a backup 60 KW power generator. By design, the tank is kept at least 70% full. The school also has a built-in fire alarm system which is operated both automatically and manually.

Since there is no community sewer system, each house and public building has its own seepage pits and/or septic tanks. A community sanitary fill (dump) is located about a mile southwest of the village on the Bering Sea beach. There are poles around the fill that support webbing from an old gillnet. The web keeps the little pieces of garbage from blowing away. On one end of the fill there is an inclined opening wide enough for trucks to back into the fill to unload. The fill was dug under the authority of the Village Council. It is the responsibility of the people of the village to dump their garbage and to keep the dump clean.

Health Services

Prepared by Michael McNeley, Grade 12

There is no local professional health care. Health assistance is provided by the community health aide, trained under the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) - Native Health Service program. The health aide has full access to medical consultation and supervision via the USPHS telephone with the Native Medical Center in Anchorage. Emergency cases are flown to Anchorage. Health service is available from the aide 24 hours a day, and a 2-room health station is available in the community building. USPHS provides itinerant medical and dental service once or twice a year. The State of Alaska's Department of Health and Social Services provides an itinerant nurse several times a year. travel to Anchorage for some health care, According to a survey by the Aleutians East Coastal Resource Area, 65% of the respondents in the village 23% receive some health care in Sand Point, one third of these people also travel to Anchorage; 11% obtain some health care in the lower '48.

Communications

Prepared by Ellen Lori Johnson, Grade 12

Telephones and television are two of the nicest services in the village. The telephones and TV were installed about four years ago. Initially Alascom provided all services, but now the Sitka Telephone Company operates the local exchange. Of the two TV channels, one is Learn/Alaska which is instructional, and the other is an entertainment channel which is a combination of shows from ABC, CBS, NBC, and PBS and other networks. The shows include morning and evening news, children's programs, movies at night, soap operas, series

shows and sports. There are about seventeen phones in Nelson Lagoon. There are about three long distance channels. Kenny Brandell is the local representative. He hooks up phones and disconnects phones. If the system crashes, someone from out of town, usually Cold Bay, comes to repair it. Most people have CB or VHF radios in their homes as well as telephones. Radios are used to communicate with vehicles, boats, airplanes, or homes without phones. It is also a less expensive way to call Port Moller and the only way to call Bear Lake.

Other Structures and Services

Prepared by Larry Johnson, Grade 12

Other structures in the community not elsewhere detailed include the community building, ALASCOM/Sitka Telephone building, the Bering Inn, mechanical and wood shops, a warehouse, and outside storage. The community building contains the village health station and village council and corporation offices. The Bering Inn has five motel apartments with complete kitchens including cooking and serving utensils and some condiments. There are four privately owned shops in the village. In two of them, almost all major tasks routinely performed in either a wood shop or a mechanic's garage can be performed including automotive, small engine, marine engine, diesel overhaul and repair, welding, cabinet making, and wiring. Like many other communities in Alaska's bush, Nelson Lagoon has very few services and facilities; none of these exist: store, post office, coffee shop, church, paved roads, or gym.

Natural Resources and Environment

Prepared by Ellen Lori Johnson, Grade 11

Nelson Lagoon has a very unique and complex environment. The village lies within the maritime climate zone of Alaska, characterized by high winds, moderate temperatures, and frequent precipitation. Many times during the winter the high

Original publication's page 9 begins

winds produce a severe wind chill factor, sometimes as low as -50 degrees Fahrenheit. Very seldom does it ever stay extremely cold for long periods of time. Summer months are predominated by fog, rain, and cloud cover. The average temperature ranges from 50 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, often accompanied by southerly winds about 10 knots. The students in grades K-4 (Fred Nelson, Melinda Nelson, Valarie Johnson, Craig Rysewyk, and Leona Nelson) made and recorded temperatures on each school day at 8:30 AM from September 5, 1984 through May 7, 1985.

The average monthly temperatures during this period are as follow:

September 50°F, October 40°F, November 37°F,
December 37°F, January 35°F, February 32°F,
March 27°F, April 28°F, and May 37°F.

Nelson Lagoon lies within an extensive complex of low-lying marshy coastline, tidal flats, coastal inlets, lakes and lagoons. The village, approximately 35 feet in elevation, is located on a sandy spit built from former beach ridges which have been partially stabilized by vegetative cover. The beaches are composed of dark sands and gravel. South of the village, the landscape is dominated by the magnificent Aleutian Range. Eighty miles of the Range, made up of many mountains and volcanoes, can be seen from the village. Twenty-five statute miles due south of the village is Mt. Dana (4,300 feet). Forty-nine statute miles southwest of Nelson Lagoon is the quite visible Mt. Pavlof (8,261 feet), an active *volcano* which often releases steam and smoke. Mt. Veniaminof (8,225 feet), seventy-five statute miles east-northeast, cannot be seen from the village, but smoke is occasionally seen rising from the volcano. The high earthquake activity that occurs on the Pacific side of the Alaska Peninsula can be severe enough to cause mild ground tremors at Nelson Lagoon.

The area around Nelson Lagoon is a treeless, low-profile tundra dominated by grass, forbs, and mosses. Tall shrubs such as alder and willow are found along the banks of rivers and at the base of mountains and hills. The predominant plants of the tundra are crowberry, blueberry, low willow and numerous wildflowers. Red fox, river otter, mink, wolverine, caribou, porcupines, weasels, tundra hares, brown and collared lemmings, and wolves roam the tundra year-round. Bear and squirrels can be seen in the late spring, summer and early fall months. Many types of birds live in the area around Nelson Lagoon. Waterfowl such as ducks and geese live in the many lakes and lagoons and along the beaches. Snipes, seagulls, and arctic terns fly along the beaches and nest on the many islands in the area. Other birds including eagles, ravens, magpies, snow buntings, and swallows can be seen certain times during the year.

There are hundreds of life forms in the waters around Nelson Lagoon. Large sea mammals such as humpback whales, killer whales, walrus, and porpoises swim in the Bering Sea. Some of these large mammals make their way up the channel

Original publication's page 10 begins

inside the spit at Nelson Lagoon. During their migration, whales are often seen swimming and spouting off our coast. There are always many seals and sea lions eating salmon and swimming in the channels and rivers around Nelson Lagoon. Many species of fish live in the waters in this area. These include sockeye salmon, Chum salmon, Coho (silver) salmon, Chinook, Steelhead trout, and Dolly Varden. Other fish in the area include bullhead, jelly fish, stickle back, sole, hooligan, halibut, lamprey, and shark. Shellfish such as clams, snails, and mussels live in or on the sandbars and beaches. Crab and shrimp are found in the deeper waters of the Bering Sea.

Recreation

Prepared by Ellen Lori Johnson, Grade 12

Many of the usual choices of recreation are not available in Nelson Lagoon, but the people appreciate and make the best of those things that are available. Since the animal and bird population are abundant around Nelson Lagoon, everyone has the opportunity to go hunting and trapping any time of the year. Camping is a recreational activity to which everyone looks forward. A cabin about 31 miles southwest of the village is the usual camp site. It can be reached by water during the summer and overland during the winter. Riding three-wheelers (ATVs) and trucks is a most common pastime in Nelson Lagoon; you can ride for miles on the Bering Sea beach or just cruise around the village. Rebuilding three-wheeler engines as well as other mechanical work is another major pastime.

Nelson Lagoon lacks many recreational activities and facilities that people in the city take for granted. For instance, there is no gym at school, YMCA, public library or bar.

There are not enough students for a school band, athletic teams, or many other extra-curricular activities. Our small population adversely affects activities such as dances and dating. Also, there is no video arcade, movie house, roller rink, or other such teen-age hangouts. There is also no Honda shop, hobby shop, ice cream parlor, or hardware store.

Favorite summer recreational activities include boating, sport fishing, walking, beach combing, picnicking, and an occasional swim in an inland lake at David River. There are a lot of fun things to do during the winter when all the lakes have frozen over and there is snow everywhere. You can go snow sledding, snowmobiling, and three-wheeling for miles around Nelson Lagoon. Also, riding three-wheelers on the ice and through snow drifts is a blast. Skating, skiing, and just sledding down hills in sleds or toboggans are just plain fun activities.

Many of the older people like to ice fish in the lakes, inland from the village. This is done with a line and hook through a hole in the ice. Since the weather in Nelson Lagoon is often stormy, windy, rainy or generally not fun to be out in, people have to find something to keep themselves occupied. You can watch TV or a video tape, listen to music, practice playing a musical instrument, or play a game of pool. Almost everyone has an everyday routine of going to a particular neighbor or relative's house for coffee, gossiping, and playing cards or dice games. Some of the older people take pleasure in such indoor activities as woodcrafts, metal work, sewing, knitting, baking, cooking, or working on a craft such as ivory carving or center-pieces and home improvements. School activities, birthdays, holidays, and anniversaries are scattered throughout the year, so there are often big dinners or special events to attend.

Original publication's page 11 begins

Directory

Nelson Lagoon Village Council

(907) 989-2204 & 2205

Paul M. Gundersen, President

Harold Johnson, Sr., Vice-President

Paul E. "Butch" Gundersen, Secretary-Treasurer

Allen Nelson, Member

Safe Water District

(907) 989-2204/2205

Board of Directors

Paul M. Gundersen, President

Harold Johnson, Sr., Vice-President

Paul E. "Butch" Gundersen, Secretary-Treasurer

Allen Nelson, Member

Staff

Allen Nelson, Maintenance

Justine Gundersen, Bookkeeper

Nelson Lagoon Corporation

(907) 989-2204 & 2205 Board of Directors

Paul E. "Butch" Gundersen, President

Harold Johnson, Sr., Vice-President

Paul M. Gundersen, Secretary-Treasurer

William Johnson, Sr., Member

Allen Nelson, Member

Staff

Justine Gundersen, Secretary/Bookkeeper

Nelson Lagoon Fuel Company

(907) 989-2204/2205

Board of Directors

Paul E. "Butch" Gundersen, President

Harold Johnson, Sr., Vice-President

Paul M. Gundersen, Secretary-Treasurer

William Johnson, Sr., Member

Allen Nelson, Member

Staff

Ken Brandell, Manager

Justine Gundersen, Bookkeeper

Nelson Lagoon Electric Cooperative, Inc.

(907) 989-2204/2205

Board of Directors

Ken Brandell, President

Harold Johnson, Sr., Vice-President

Millie Johnson, Member

John Nelson, Sr., Member

Staff

John Nelson, Sr., Maintenance

Justine Gundersen, Bookkeeper

Nelson Lagoon School

(907) 989-2225

Community School Committee

Millie Johnson, Chairperson

Nancy Nelson, Vice-Chairperson

Allen Nelson

Arlene Nelson

Dick Rysewyk

Staff

Thomas "Lew" Grimes, Head Teacher

Dorothy Grimes, Teacher

Rich Little, Teacher

Mardonna Johnson, Custodian

John Nelson, Maintenance

State of Alaska Division of Elections

(907) 989-2212

Millie Johnson, Registration/Absentee Ballot

Health Aide

Kathy Gundersen

Johnson-O'Malley Parent Committee

Millie Johnson, Chairperson

Mardonna Johnson, Secretary

Sharon Brandell

Jenny Johnson

Nancy Nelson

Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association

Mardonna Johnson, Member, Board of Directors

Mardonna Johnson, Adult Education Program's
local contact

Aleutians East Coastal Resource Service Area

Allen Nelson, Member, Board of Directors

Aleutian Housing Authority

Mardonna Johnson, Member, Board of Directors

Alaska Native Health Board

Mardonna Johnson

Bering Inn

(907) 989-2209

Reservations/information

Sitka Telephone Representative

(907) 989-2226

Kenny Brandell

Original publication's page 12 begins

Residents by Household

Brandell - Kenneth, Sharon, Nanette, Allen, Tammy,
Merle, Pricilla

Grimes - Thomas "Lew," Dorothy "Dottie"

Gundersen - Paul E. "Butch"

Gundersen - Paul M., Justine, Dale; Chesley, Theo

Isaacson - Doug

Johnson - Danny

Johnson - Harold Sr. "Gunner," Jenny, Harold Jr.
"Breezie"

Johnson - Leona

Johnson - Preben

Johnson - Sherman "Maxi," Millie, Ray, Ellen "Lori"

Johnson - Tommy, Laura, Valarie, Elvis Johnson -
William Jr., Debbie, Christina, Rebecca

Johnson - William Sr., Mardonna, Maryanna;
McNeley, Michael, Mark

Little - Richard

Nelson - Allen, Arlene, Sharlene, Leona; Orloff,
Diane

Nelson - Jack, Nancy, Melinda, Glen "Fred";

Mobeck, Katie, Ernie

Nelson - John Sr., Louise, John Jr.

Nelson - Polly, Dailey; Orloff, Carpa Jr.

Rysewyk - Dick, Mona, Craig;

Gundersen - Kathy, Beverly

Orloff - Alex, Nina; Johnson, Clifford, Sandy

(Added:

Originally published as

[Aleutian Region School District Community Profile:](#)

[Alaska 1985](#)

(and included community profiles of Nelson Lagoon,
Cold Bay, False Pass, Nikolski, Akutan, and Atka)

[Aleutian Region School District](#), now at:

118 East International Airport Road

Anchorage, AK 99509

907.277.2648

After the organization of Aleutians East Borough in
1987, schools in Nelson Lagoon, Cold Bay, False
Pass and Akutan as well as Sand Point and King
Cove were transferred to the

[Aleutians East Borough School District](#).

Take a look at the activity of local volcanoes:

[Mt. Pavlof](#)

[Mt. Veniaminof](#)

[Mt. Shishaldin](#)

See all FAA [weather cams](#) in Alaska including the
two at Nelson Lagoon's airstrip.

Why are the weather cams **"always" dark?** What
time is it? Geophysically, these locations are five (5)
hours earlier than Eastern (New York) Time.
Political maps show them to be four (4) hours earlier
than Eastern Time.

Prior to the students' preparation and school
district's publishing this document, I had had a face-
to-face discussion with a US Postal Service field
representative who stated that the reason that
Nelson Lagoon did not have US Post Office was that
it was not a permanent community. I submitted this
document to the appropriate postal authorities in
1985. Subsequently, I received a [letter](#) from the
US Postal Service stating that an official contract
post office would be awarded within a year.

T. L. "Lew" Grimes www.grimeseasy.com, 2008)