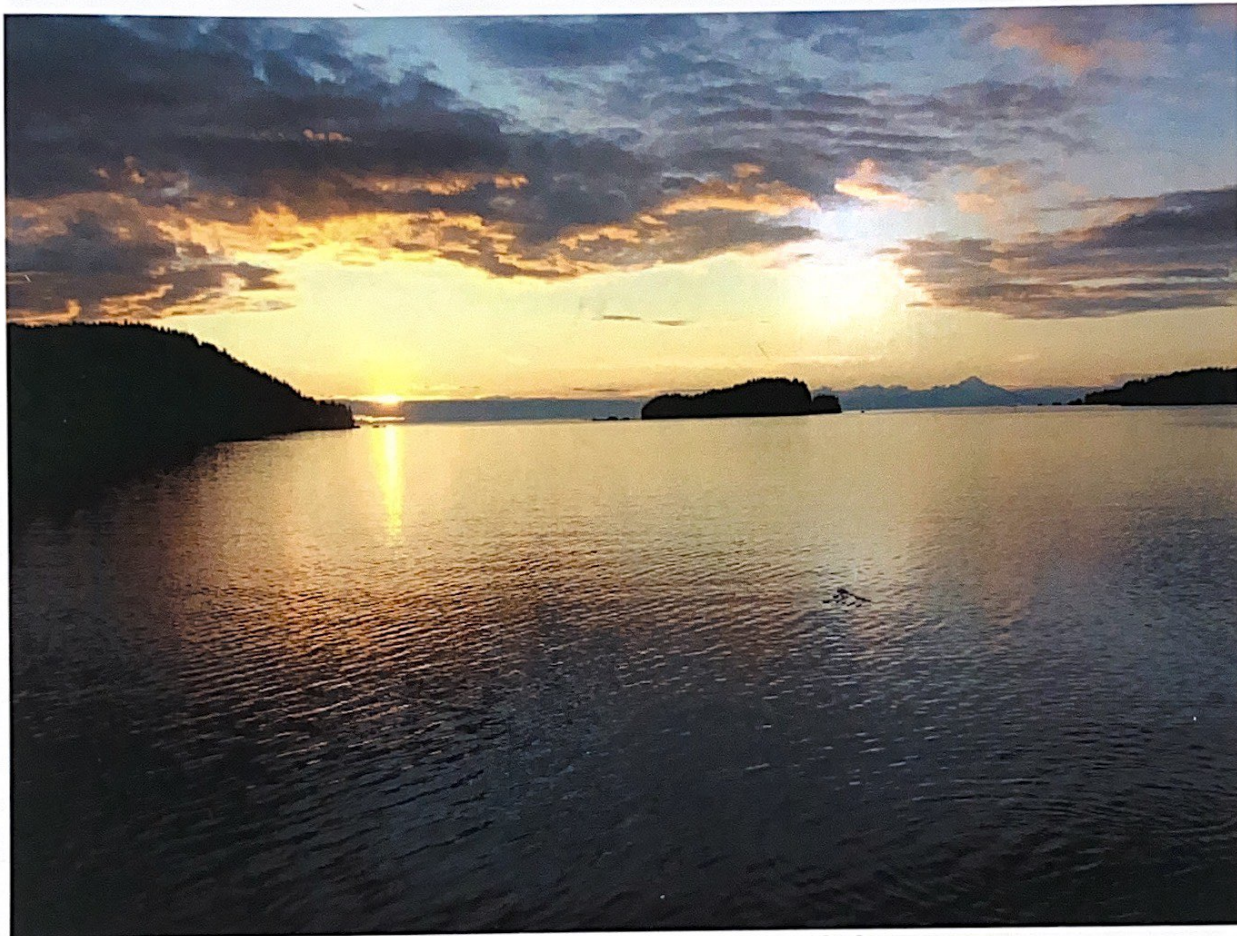


Fireweed



Sunset at the mouth of Port Graham, Alaska

Life and Times in Port Graham

2008

(Fifth Edition)



2008 Fireweed Staff



Students left to right: Jonathan Anahonak, Kimber Moonin, Julie Anahonak, Joleen Moonin

Adults left to right: Jim Hoobler, Peggy Arnold-Hoobler, Kristin Heritage

**Student writers: Jonathan Anahonak,
Kimber Moonin, Julie Anahonak, Joleen Moonin**

**Staff: Jim Hoobler, Interviewer, Photographer, Editing
Peggy Arnold-Hoobler, Principal
Kristin Heritage, Classroom Assistant**

(Some of the contents in the following pages contain quotes and/or words printed without editing to maintain authenticity from the interviewee)

Special Thanks

2008 Fireweed (the 5th Edition)

All the Port Graham interviewees for their stories

Peggy Arnold- Hoobler, Principal, for allowing the students to have a creative writing class

Mike Petersen, Project Grad & Alaska Native ED Grant, for providing funding for the Port Graham Journalism Field Trip

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Project GRAD and Alaska Native ED Grant with their help in printing costs

Jim Hoobler, Volunteer Fireweed Coordinator/Photographer

Students: Jonathan Anahonak, Joleen Moonin, Kimber Moonin, and Julie Anahonak for all their hard work



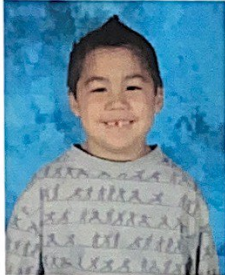
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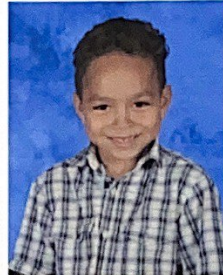
Port Graham Students and Faculty



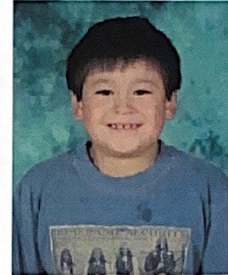
Malachi Joseph (K)



Monique Cook (1)



Charles Moonin (1)



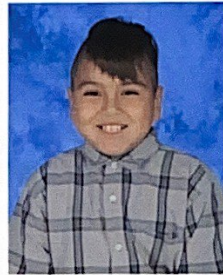
Nicholas Meganack (2)



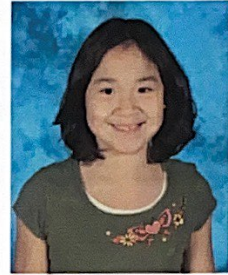
Elton Ogan (2)
(left at semester)



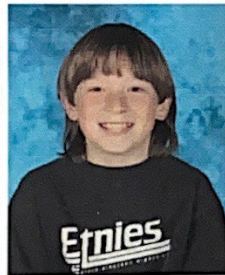
Hannah Campen (3)



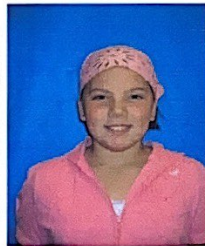
Kobe Norman (3)



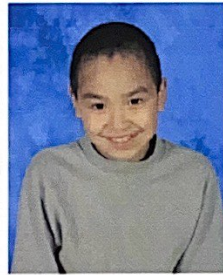
Kelsey Meganack (4)



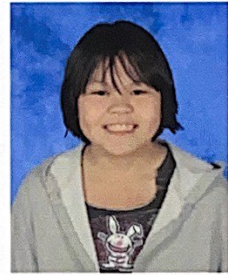
Daniel Ogan (4)
(left at semester)



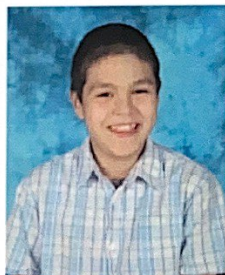
Cyrena Joseph (5)



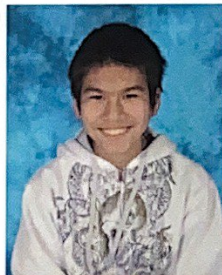
Michael Anahonak (6)



Juliana Anahonak (6)



Nikalai Norman (7)



Micheal Kvasnikoff (8)
(left at semester)



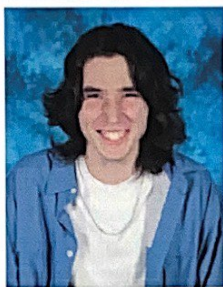
Kimber Moonin (8)



Joleen Moonin (9)



Andrew Norman (9)



Cody Dumont (10)
(left at semester)



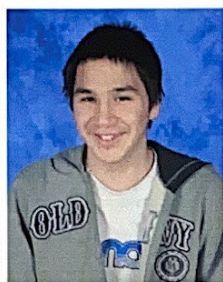
Justin Malchoff (10)
(left at semester)



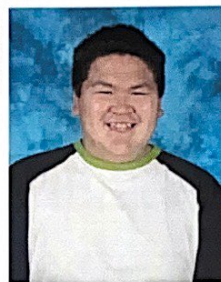
Darren Moonin (11)



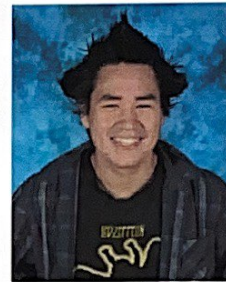
Lawrence Yeaton (11)



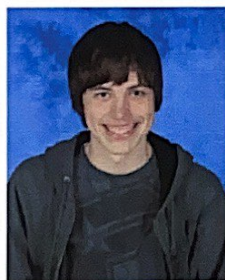
Ricky Yeaton (11)



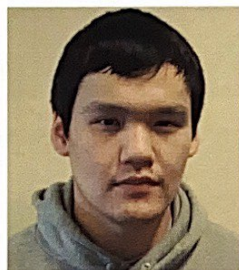
Jonathan Anahonak (11)



Kyle Lestenkof (11)



Kristan Norman (11)



William Miller (11)
(started 2nd semester)



Olga Fomin
Secretary



Father David Ogan
Teacher Aide (left at sem)



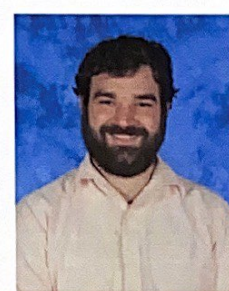
Peggy Arnold-Hoobler
Principal/Teacher



Jim Hoobler
Custodian/ Fireweed
Coordinator/Photographer



Courtney Lambaiso
K-6 Teacher



Brody Lambaiso
6-12 Teacher

Fireweed Journalism Field Trip

February 14-17, 2008



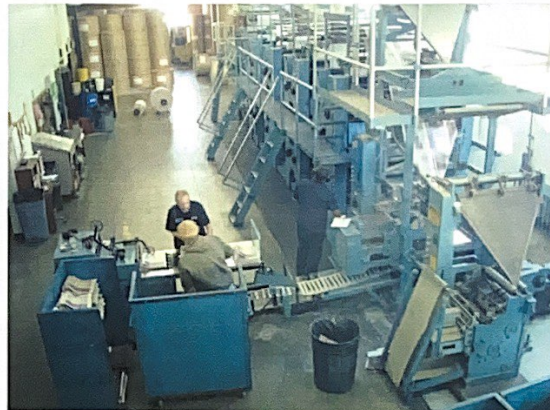
A tour of the Kenai Peninsula College



Kimber's first valentine roses



A rose on Valentine's Day always produces a smile



A tour of the Kenai Clarion and interview with the city editor were highlights of the field trip



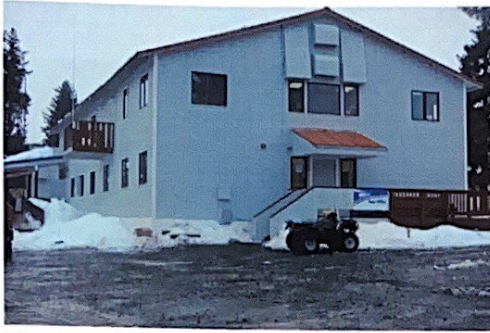
An educational session with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe



Drawing fun at Buckets for lunch

Welcome to Port Graham, Alaska

(More information at www.portgraham.org)



Village Council Building



Fire and Ambulance Building



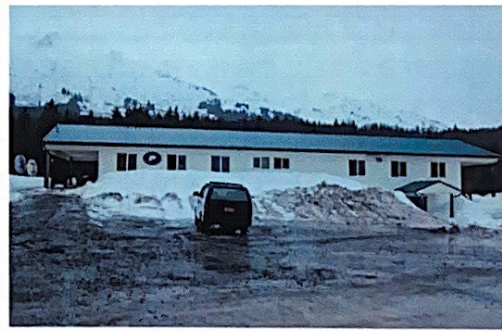
Airport Sign



Welcome to the Port Graham Airport



Boat Docks and Old Cannery



Anesia Anahonak Moonin Clinic



Port Graham Corporation and Museum Building



North Pacific Rim Maintenance Building

Simeon Kvasnikoff—"If I heard it on the radio, the next day I'd be playing it."



By Julie Anahonak

I was born in 1935. I was raised in Port Graham.

My great grandfather came from Nuncik. They used three man kayaks and traveled to Kodiak. An old man told me a story about the men who would travel in one man kayaks. They would wait and travel with the west winds. When they would come to shore, all eyes would be on them. The people would help them up on the beach and they would be dressed in nothing but fur clothing.

From Kodiak my greatgrand father moved to Cordova. The stories, I was told, are that during that time, savages from the south came and were killing the husbands and boys, taking the women, and eating the little ones. The flu finally scared the savages out. My great grandfather moved to Alex Bay. It became a village around the late 1800's. My great grandmother was from Illiamna and lived in Kenai. She picked up her language from the Kenaitzi Tribe. They moved to Seldovia and that's where my mother was born.

My father met my mother in Seldovia. After they got married, they went to Coal Mine right after the Russians left. My parents lived in a store that the Russians built. My

oldest brother, Michael, was born at Coal Mine and the rest of the kids here in Port Graham. When my Father came here, Father Nicholas, who was from Sitka, taught them Slovonik. He became a reader and carried the star in Port Graham and Nanwalek.

One summer my father was the store clerk in the cannery. He also helped open up the CC trail going up the bay to Seldovia. The government got them to do that in order to survive and make money. My father caught phenomena and coughed so much he injured his lungs and it turned into TB.

I was six years old when my father died from TB. Paul was the youngest, Jennie was second, then me, Phillip was next, then Annie, and then Olga was the oldest girl. Michael was the oldest boy and he fell off a ladder and busted his rib and punctured his lung and died.

I was eight or nine years old when I started school. I had a mean teacher. She pulled girls hair and hit boys with a yard stick. I talked native language at home. I wrote one hundred times, "I will not speak native language," if I spoke it in school. There would be times when my teacher would make me wash my tongue with soap and make me stay after school. Mother never stopped talking to us in our language but we had to speak English in school. I went to the 6th grade and kept teaching myself with books after that. I had to go work at the cannery when I was 16.

When I was eight or nine we had black outs because of the war in the Aleutian Chain. PT boats would come up to Port Graham area, sometimes 2 or 3 of them looking for Japs. I don't think the Japs ever got this close because we were blacked out and they couldn't see up here in the bay. They told us there were subs in the bay. I was told that the Japs would never give up. Many of them killed themselves instead of being captured. My brother, Phillip, was in the Army. He was with the engineer division.

My mother had to raise all us kids after my father died. Mother was strict. There were no arguments at the table and we didn't leave the table until everyone was done. We had to be home at a certain time too. When I was about nine, my mother told us boys that when we became a man, you're out of the house, but the girls can stay as long as they want.

I was out of the house when I was 17. I had to see other towns and wanted to see greener grass. I traveled here and there. I played guitar and mostly western music. I played in a Sterling bar and ended up with our own team with five guys from Montana. They were sheep ranchers and wanted me to go with them. I didn't go. In life, you have other plans and I just couldn't go with them. So I ended up with two guys, Pete on the steel guitar, Chuck on the bass, and a gal, Renee, on the violin and we played in Seldovia and sometimes at the Nuggett Bar and Sally's Bar in Seward. I was the lead singer and sang mostly Hank Williams and Ernest Tubb songs. If I heard it on the radio, the next day I'd be playing it.

I was eighteen years old when I started using a boat. I went to Nuka Bay, Beaty Bay, Elite and Port Dick to go fishing. Mostly we got our fish from Port Dick because of the size and because it was deep.

The cannery started here in 1912. It was called the Feldelo Island Co. Around 1958 the cannery burnt down. I fished most of my life. I was behind the wheel for 48 years. I parked my last boat in 1989 and that's the last time I used it.

Advice: Don't pass a person without saying something. Don't just walk by them—maybe they are down, depressed. Talk to them and make that person feel better. In my day, we had lots of happy go lucky people.

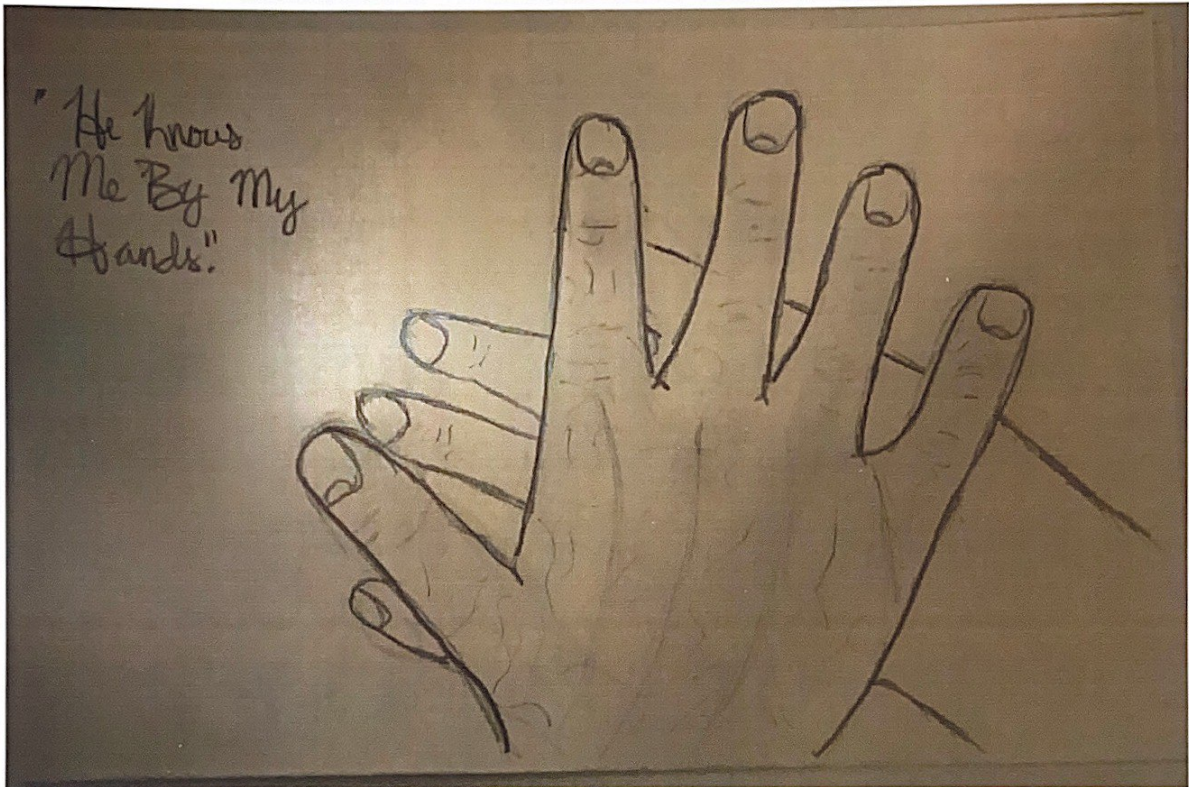
Advice from my mother: Don't just look at a person if they need help, especially the elders. They can't do what they used to do before. Help them.

**Children---Simeon Jr., Martha, Maria, Lisa
Father-George Anahonak
Mother- Martha Nome Toko**



Uncle Alex Moonin

"He knows me by my hands"



Every time I see Uncle Alex, I have to show him my hands. He looks at them, squeezes them, chuckles a little, and then sniffs them. He says something like, "Alla, Your Moonin Hands."

Every time I see him, I am willing to give my hands to him.

Joleen Moonin

Tom and Feona Sawden

"To be honest, I thought she was too pretty to be interested in me"



"I winked at him"

By Kimber Moonin

I was born about 68 years ago. The only job that anyone around here could have was the cannery which was at AC (Alaska Company) Point and it means that it's between here and Nanwalek. That is where they started salting fish. And then they found out that there was a cove and that the water was deep enough for them to make another cannery. That is where our cannery is now.

When I was a baby, I can remember that my uncle babysat for me when my mom worked down at the cannery. When I was old enough, about 8 or 9, I started baby sitting for other people's children while they worked. I lived where Vera lives today. The farthest part of Port Graham is where Ephim Kamluck is living today. To go to the grave yard we had to walk through the bushes. And before that people used to live across the bay and then come over here to work at the cannery. Yes, there used to be houses across the bay on a flat piece of land.

I cheated (lied about my age) when I was 11 because of the measles that we were having. When I got well enough, I worked (which was illegal) because they had to run the cannery. The corporation ran the first cannery.



Anesia Metcraft and Feona given by Augusta

I went to school up to 8th grade and if we had to go to school we went to Mt. Edgecombe. My father wouldn't let me go so I didn't finish my high school until I got my G.E.D. You are never too old to get your education! I think it was a lot better for me to really grab on to what I was learning.

This one lady used to come pick me up so we could do some canning or make some boxes before the workers showed up. Sometimes we would go to work at 5:00 am. When I was young I got paid not even two dollars an hour, and at the end of the season maybe \$700.00 and it was long hours. At the end of the season my dad would take us up



the little creek to my grandparent's cabin and we would spend a couple of weeks there fishing and drying them. There's a big creek and a little one, and I own part of it up the bay. He would go and leave us behind and come back to see if they were dry enough. He was good at keeping us from seeing other people drinking.

I moved to Anchorage and was married to another man before I met Tom. We had four daughters and mostly I stayed home to take care of them and didn't go out to work at all. Then I and Tom met (I saw him at a bar and winked at him) and had three kids. My youngest baby is a boy. I worked as a nurse's aide at ANS, and then I got tired of not doing anything so I did house keeping at the hospital. We moved back to Port Graham

in 1970. I worked at the cannery as a floor lady, then for six years I was the bi-lingual teacher and teacher aide at the Port Graham School. I was also a PG Health Aide for six years. Tom and I have been together forty years.

I have two sisters (Vera and Fedoria) that are still alive. Vera lives here and Fedoria lives in Homer.

Person's name: Feona Sawden
Mother's name: Polly (Moonin) Meganack
Father's name: Larry Meganack
Spouse's name: Thomas H. Sawden
Paternal Grandfather: Mike Moonin
Paternal Grandmother: Jessie Kamluck
Maternal Grandfather: Anton Meganack
Maternal Grandmother: Fedora Maha

Children's Names:

Shurina Wilkins, Jaqueline Lina Jager, Roxanne Walz, Christalina Jager, Angelina Sawden, Anesia Frewert, Thomas H. Sawden.



Tom Sawden with octopus in front of tent house

I graduated from high school in 1960 and I went in the Army for three years and was in Germany most of the time. I'm from Michigan and after I came back from the service I worked in a factory for about a year and a half. I decided to do some traveling because I wasn't ready to settle down after being in the service. So I just came up here to spend a while looking. I wanted to see some of the game and maybe even go towards the east (but that stopped when I met Feona). I came to Alaska in 1965.

I did get up here and worked geophysical the first couple years. It was great because it gave me a chance to see Alaska on both land and water. I helped drill, to start with, Susitna Exploration, Precision Exploration, and then Western Geophysical. And by the time I got to Western Geophysical on the third year, I had switched over from drill helping to being in the recording crew. But anyway, it was land in the winter and out on a 155 foot boat in the summer where I saw my first whales and lots of game.

I lived in Anchorage. I was out most of the time with a three week out/ one week in or a two/two week rotation.

When Feona and I got married we lived in Anchorage and we had two girls. We decided to move to Port Graham in 1970. The first winter we lived at AC Point and in the spring of 1971 we built a tent house and lived in it for two years. At one point we had seven kids in the tent.

We built a 20 foot by 20 foot two story house. I worked at the cannery in the beach gang, maintenance, fork lift operator and port engineer divisions. I also worked at various jobs in town.

I actually don't consider myself a wood carver, I just fiddle with wood. My first carving was of Feona in ivory (I was out on the boat) and I still have that carving.

When Tom was asked the question "Was it love at first sight?" about meeting Feona, he had this to say. "To be honest, I thought she was too pretty to be interested in me".

My advice to young people is to get an education while you can because the rest of your life depends on it.



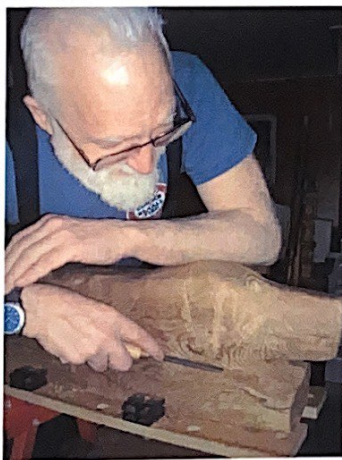
Tom with bear skin



Tom and twin sister Suzanne



Wooden carving by Tom



Tom carving "Max", his dog, that died January 2008

"Asirtua" "Asirtua"

Vera Meganack

**By Joleen Moonin
(Granddaughter)**



Bear Story

We'll start from when I was small. My mom and Dad used to take me up the bay. I was small, around 3 or 4. We'd park the skiff at low tide. We had a little cabin up there. My mom cooked humpy by the fire and drank tea all day long. We would even spend nights up there.

And I'd go out and play with the bears. I always thought they were puppies. I would always play with them. My dad once counted 16 or 18 bears that I was playing with. None of them even tried to come after me. And then one time I went up the stream, I fell down. And the biggest bear came after me, real fast in Aleut I told him, "Asirtua" (I'm okay), "Asirtua" (I'm okay) and the bear stopped right in front of me and grunted then went back real slow. He was huge! But I think that was the Momma that was trying to come after me because I slipped down. All those other bears were smaller than her. It might have even been the Daddy. I was about five years old, that time. Because I still remember those bears. My dad would sit on top of a tree and have the gun aimed at the bears, in case one attacked me. I was very fortunate they never attacked me. Man there used to be lots of bears, which is probably why I'm not scared of bears.

I used to walk to Nanwalek, they don't bother me, I just tell them, "Leave me alone, I'm trying to go see my grand kids!" And they'll just stare at me, then turn around and walk away from me, or walk into the bushes. That was my bear story. They never bothered me, and they still don't!

School

I attended school here in Port Graham. The grades went up to eighth grade. First couple of years at school was not a good experience, so I don't want to get into that. The school is where the gym is now. We had lower grades and upper grades. The lower grades had six steps up to the room. The upper grades were from fifth to eighth grade.

The highlight in school was the SRA's because we'd compete on who could read the fastest. Seraphim Meganack and I used to compete on who could read faster that day. Man, he was able to read 725 words a minute! And I was way down to like 125. Oh, we used to have so much fun with that! We used to try and finish our school, just so we could do our SRA. They're those one's they can put on screens, and the words go by. Those were fun!

Oh man we used to have Christmas plays! I was the quiet one. Everyone used to pick on me all the time, so I didn't have that much fun. The only thing I looked forward to is "I better do well so I can get something from Santa Claus." So I'd study my play. I'd cry because my mom wouldn't help me sometimes. She had to help me learn, in second grade. I didn't learn to read completely until I was in third grade. I spoke nothing but Sugcestun, when I was little. In second grade, I started to speak English. I had to have my cousin help me in school. She'd interpret. So I went to school with an interpreter. I'd sit behind her and she'd tell me what I was supposed to read.

There were two teachers, one for the lower grades and one for the upper grades. In the summer time we'd work. But in the ninth grade, I went to Ninilchik High School. Ninth grade is as far as I went. I got frustrated because I couldn't understand social studies and history. I failed both of them and math. I tried to argue with my teachers on math. Math didn't make any sense, because we don't use math. Little did I know I was going to use it later in life. Good thing I did, because I can balance my check book.

After school, I married Polly Anne's dad, I'm not going to reveal my age though, and I married when I was too young. I feel just awful that I got married young. I wasn't thinking. I wish I had waited.

Words of Advice for the teens here in Port Graham:

Learn to make you own native foods. Don't just walk away when your mom or dad are preparing native foods. Make sure you stay close to them. And my granddaughters are good at smoking fish. They have learned to braid seal intestines, smoke them for two or three days, bake, and cut into pieces.

Vera Meganack

No Spouse

Paternal Grandfather!—Antone Meganack

Paternal Grandmother—Fedora Maha

Maternal Grandfather—Mike Moonin

Maternal Grandfather—Jessie Kamluck

Father- Larry Antone Meganack

Mother Polly May Moonin

Children

1. Anna Sue Ukatish
2. Polly Anne Moonin
3. Arthur Ephim Patrick Moonin
4. Ephim Herman Moonin Jr.

Grand Kids (oldest to youngest)

Ephimia Moonin Wilson Ukatish ; Joleen Moonin; Kimber Moonin; Antone Ukatish; Timothy Ukatish
Lavrentie Ukatish; Verina Olyplada Ukatish; D'Artagnon Benjamin Philip Moonin; Charles Moonin;
Maxamus Moonin; Saraphima Ukatish; Elias Moonin Ernacio Moonin; Ariana Moonin; Tatiana Moonin-
Thiele; Tristion Moonin

Step Grandkids—Emmanuale Howes & Dominic Howes



Harvesting a bidarki from the beach



Vera showing granddaughter, Kimber Moonin, how to cut up Sea Lion for packaging.

Tom and Violet Yeaton

Violet Yeaton

By: Joleen Moonin



Job: Tribal Council Member for the last 7 years.

I'm in the Environmental Program; the funding comes from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. They have an allocation of funding for our tribes. Port Graham is a federal recognized tribe so we're eligible for funding to work on environmental issues. Like whatever issues we feel are a concern.

I got involved after the Exxon Oil Spill of 1989. At the time I had my first child named Felicia. I remember hearing about the oil spill but not really being impacted by it. And I thought, "Oh, it's down by Prince William Sound, it's not gonna impact us." I felt bad but I was just like, "Thank God it's not in my back yard."

My daughter was born on the 29th of March and the oil spill happened on March 24. I flew home about a week later. As I was flying across the bay, I could see the sheet of oil on top of the water, so I knew that it did get to our land. When I saw the oil it kind of got me involved in the aspect of umm...you know, what are we doing to protect our traditional foods and our land, our air and water? So, that kind of spread my interest, with getting involved with those issues. So, that's kind of the long and short version of all the way back to where I'm at.

I moved back to Port Graham when I was about 11 years old. I just loved it here. My mom was from here and she is a full blooded Aleut. My father came from Arizona (Cherokee, Sioux and Chinese). When I came back, there was no electricity or running water (in the late 60's). We had wood for heat and we just came in the summers. There was a tiny, skinny road. They weren't as big as the one's we have today. There were some three wheelers and almost

everybody walked. I didn't go to school here, I went to school in Kasiloff. The bridges to the Nanwalek trail were falling. It was hard to walk the trail. I had to jump from one bridge to the other.

ADVICE: Get involved , speak up, be respectful, and participate in the community.

Spouse- Thomas Yeaton, Sr.; Father-Thomas T. Young Sr.; Mother-Marie Alice (Malchoff) Young;
Paternal Grandfather/Grandmother- Charles and Louise Young; Maternal Grandfather/Grandmother-Tim and Malania Malchoff; Children- Felicia, Lawrence, Kelly, Christiana, Tom Jr.



"I love it here, I'll go get fish and give it away, I don't mind."

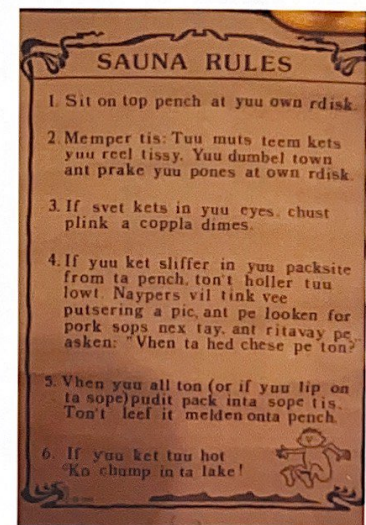
Tom Yeaton

by: Joleen Moonin

I was born in 1949, Concord, New Hampshire. I lived on a dairy farm for 17 years. I worked young on a farm for 25 cents an hour, and then I got a raise to 50 cents an hour. Lived off of land, we helped each other, and just kept busy. I didn't watch as much TV as I do today. We lost our farm to a fire in February 1959. It burned everything. We just had the clothes on our backs. I learned to drive a truck at 11 years old and learned to operate equipment at 16 or 17.

I married Nancy in Nanwalek when I was 21 (1972). In 1976 Nancy and I moved to Alaska because Nancy's father was dying of cancer. Nancy and I divorced, and then I married Violet in 1986.

I commercial fished here for a while. I went to Bristol Bay fishing for 14 years and I logged in Jakoloff Bay. In 1989 I had helped build the water dam, the new pump house and did some sewer work here in PG. Now, I do road maintenance. Whatever they needed, I would help.



Words of Advice for the young kids: Work hard. It's the only way to get anywhere today. Show up early-10 minutes before you are needed. Get out there and show up on time.

Spouse- Violet Yeaton

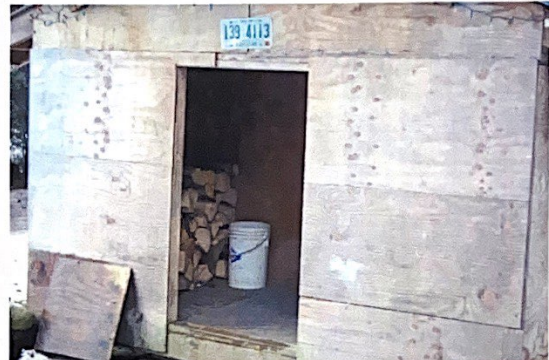
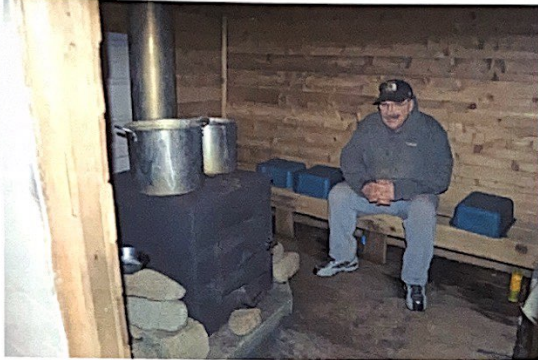
Father's Name- Herbert I. Yeaton

Mother's Name-Ella Yeaton

Children's Names-Tom Jr., Christina, Kelly, Felicia, Lawrence

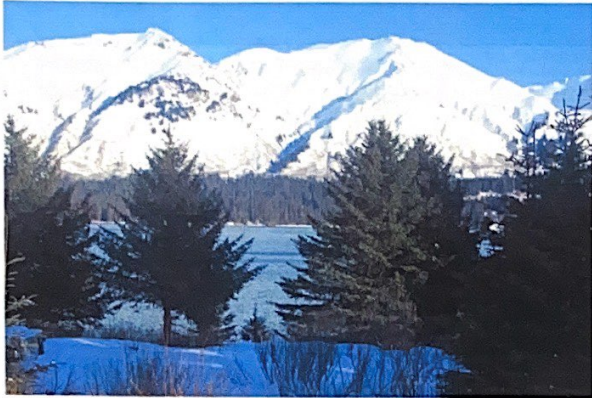
17 Grand children and 1 great grandson

Tom's Banya



Benjamin Meganack, Sr.

"We were not allowed to speak our native language in school"



View from Ben's window of the bay



By: Juliana Anahonak

I was born in Port Graham on August 20, 1940. I grew up as a commercial fisherman. We had to help our Dad. We had a large family. There were thirteen kids in the family. It would have been fifteen kids, but two died young. It was such a large family that my older brother Riley and I had to help out our Dad.

We had a hard time in school because we had to break out of our language Sugcestun. We had to stay after school if we spoke that language. We would have to write on the black board that we would not talk native. Sometimes I would have to write, "I will not talk native in school no more," 50-100 times. We spoke our native language with our mother and father. It's the only language they knew. My grandparents spoke broken up parts of English.

I went to school in Port Graham from first grade to eighth grade. I went out to high school. My brother Riley, and I were the first ones to go out to high school. We went out to Mt. Edgecumbe in Sitka, Alaska. We stayed in war dormitories. They had made a native school out of a building used during the war. I had four years of high school way out there. I graduated in 1960.

I had surgery for TB in 1956. They removed the top of my right lung. I had nine months in the hospital for recovery. A lot of people died from TB.

My dad had to be in an iron lung for about five years in the late 40's because of TB (See related story on next page). He was the one who helped start the town of Port Graham.

I was a commercial fisherman. Also I was a cannery worker. I had a wooden skiff with an outboard motor. We would use a saing net and sold fish to the cannery. In the early days we started off rowing.

In 1983 I had a divorce. My son Basil was 8-9 months old at the time and I took care of all the kids. I have lived a good life in Port Graham.

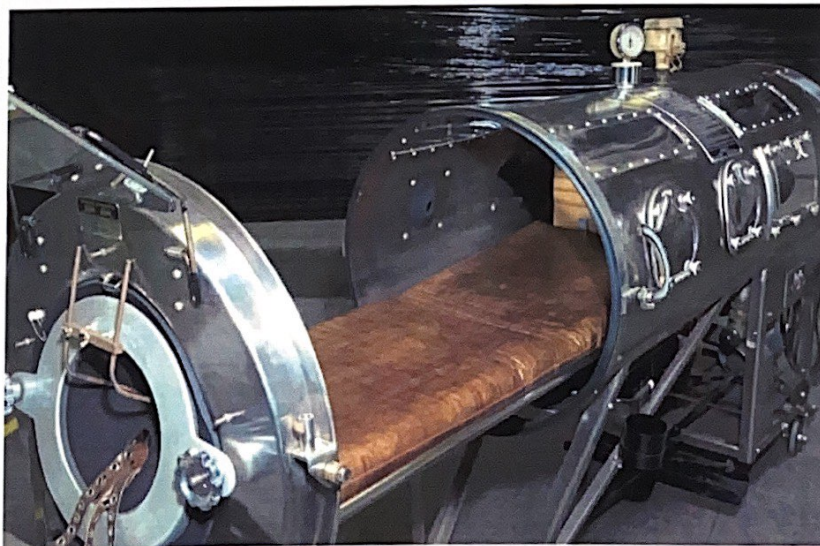
Father's Name: Walter Meganack Sr.

Mother's Name: Lubova Mumchuck

**Children's Names: Deloris Meganack; Benjamin Meganack Jr.; Rachel Meganack;
Billy Meganack; Ivan Meganack; Basil Meganack**



The person using the iron lung is placed into the central chamber, a cylindrical steel drum. A door allowing the head and neck to remain free is then closed, forming a sealed, air-tight compartment enclosing the rest of the person's body. Pumps that control airflow periodically decrease and increase the air pressure within the chamber, and particularly, on the chest. When the pressure falls below that within the lungs, the lungs expand and air from outside the chamber is sucked in via the person's nose and airways to keep the lungs filled; when the pressure rises above that within the lungs, the reverse occurs, and air is expelled. In this manner, the iron lung mimics the physiologic action of breathing: by periodically altering intrathoracic pressure, it causes air to flow in and out of the lungs. The iron lung is a form of non-invasive therapy.



John N. Moonin

By: Jonathan Anahonak



Kimber Moonin, Jonathan Anahonak, and John Moonin

I was born on October 22, 1935 and raised in Nanwalek. There was no electricity or water. Everything was wood and everything had to be made by hand because there were no chainsaws. I first came to Port Graham in January of 1984 and I've been here ever since. Also, that's the last time Pat Norman and I went seining together. The doctor had told me to stay away from the salt water because of my arthritis.

The elders showed me how to put up camp, shelter and fire when I was in my teens. The main ones that would show me were Joe Tanape and my godfather, Mike Moonin. We would go hunting and I started when I was fourteen. We would go to Dog Fish Bay, Elizabeth Island, outside of Port Chatham. It would take one and one-half to two hours to get there from the village in an eighteen foot skiff and nine horse power motor. We would go and hunt for seals. There used to be a lot of them and we used to hunt them for their fur. We would also stay in Dog Fish Bay for two days. There were no moose back then either.

I worked in the cannery in my teens, then got into fishing as a crew member and later used the cannery boats from Port Graham. We fished for Reds, Pinks, Kings, and Coho.

My father was a priest, and my oldest brother, Seregus, took care of the church here. They asked me to be the next church reader here in 1988. In the 1960's I was a reader for Nanwalek.

Dorothy and I were good friends growing up and she is the reason why I came to Port Graham. She has a wonderful family and we started dating in 1984 and married on November 15, 1988. I love her family as if it were my own family.

I went to school in Nanwalek till my late teens (16); one of my sisters and a teacher from Port Graham helped me out with the alphabet and how to read. They didn't build the school in Nanwalek until 1958. Also, I went to school in Seward at the skill center which is a vocational school and I took some carpenters aid.

Words of Advice: Be positive all the time and live on the positive side of life. Be respectful. Kids need to keep out of drugs. Those who aren't doing them aren't missing anything; you don't get anywhere with it. If you do drugs and alcohol, people will look down at you. They will never look at you.

Spouse- Dorothy (Norman) Moonin; Father- Rev. Nicholas J. Moonin; Mother- Martha Maha Moonin; Paternal grandfather- John Moonin; Paternal grandmother- Helen Moonin; Maternal grandfather- Peter Maha; Maternal grandmother- Katherine Maha



Polly Anne Moonin

By Kimber Moonin (daughter)



Polly Anne looking over a Sea Lion front shoulder before processing it

I was born in Homer, May 13, 1974. I went through grade school in Port Graham. We use to build kayaks in shop when I was in grade school. My favorite teachers were Mr. and Mrs. Hensley.

I moved to Kenai at 16 for high school and graduated in 1992. I also took a People Count college course.

I moved back to Port Graham about 15 years later. I moved because my mom (Vera) was getting sick. I also wanted to teach my kids the traditional way of catching and cutting fish, seal, octopus, sea lion, and cleaning bidarkies.

When we were younger we would go camping in tents at Johnson Slough, Second Lake above Nanwalek, and at the community center. One time, me and my friend went camping at Second Lake. We were telling scary stories and I would get so scared I would fall asleep faster. And some people would tell me, "The stories aren't real!" but I never believed them. And one time we were all

going to sleep and I heard something walking around our tent. In the day time we would cook bidarkies and muscles with the fire on the rocks.

The challenge of raising teenagers in a small village is getting them to do chores and go on the beach to get bidarkies.

My advice to the teenagers is "Listen to the elders, pay attention and don't argue with them."

Persons Name: Polly Anne Moonin

Partner: Karl Thiele

Maternal Grandfather: Larry Meganack

Maternal Grandmother: Polly Meganack (Moonin)

Paternal Grandfather: Herman Moonin Sr.

Paternal Grandmother: Annie Moonin

Father's name: Ephim Moonin Sr.

Mother's name: Vera Meganack

Children's name: Joleen Moonin, Kimber Moonin, Charles Moonin, Tatiana Moonin-Thiele.



(L to R) Charles Moonin, Joleen Moonin, Polly Anne Moonin, Karl Thiele, Kimber Moonin, Tatiana Moonin-Thiele



Peter Anahonak, Sr.

By Jonathan Anahonak

I was born in English Bay on October 4, 1934. When I was six, my mom brought me here for grade school, I only went to the seventh grade because I had to go to work, unloading boats. The school used to be where the playground is now and if we spoke Sugcestun in school we got punished for speaking the language. Also, school started around nine in the morning and got out around three-thirty. I would have to say English was my best subject. I loved going to school. I wanted to learn a lot. I used to listen to these people that would come to work down at the cannery and listen to what they spoke about.

They hardly had any outboards back then, but they used to have some. I know that my wife's dad had a boat and it was about twenty-eight feet and it had a motor on it.

Our log type house used to be where the hatchery is now and that's where my mom, dad, and our family lived.

Another job that I had was logging in Port Chatham. We used caterpillars that were from Kenai and there were two of them. We never had horses. We would make lumber for the cannery and traps.

When we would build traps we would have to get up early in the morning like around three o'clock or two-thirty in the morning to fit the tide and work all day. The water that the traps were built in were about ten or twelve feet deep, maybe more. To drive the lumber down, we would use a pile driver and the pile driver had its own power. All we had to do was tie up the pole when the tide came in and we would put nets on the poles. I didn't, but the others did. They cut the poles in Coal Mine, Johnson Slough, up the bay and all over the place. The trees that we used were small trees that were long. We would start putting the poles in the deeper area of the

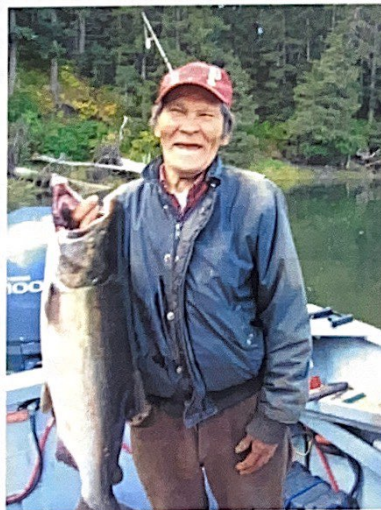
water and then tie them down and then worked our way up with the tide. When the tide came in we couldn't do anything till the next tide.

Dennis Anahonak is my oldest child, then Peter Jr., Vera, Eva, Sharon and Luba is the youngest. Sharon, the oldest daughter passed away from pneumonia (about 4 or 5 years old) and that was when measles were going around. Vera and Eva have also passed away. My wife, Anesia, passed away in 1993. I was 21 when we got married.

I used to be a commercial fisherman and my boat was PG 84. It was a seining and drifting boat. I fished till the last cannery shut down and that was about four years ago. I fished for Kings, Reds and anything that hits the net, its mine. My boys never went fishing for me. They went fishing for the cannery.

In my wilder days I used to be all over, never stayed home. I worked and played everywhere. Tim Malchoff used to have the nicest boat, the Lady Mary. He used to take us out and go hunting and we would go for about a week. We would go hunt for bear, seals and everything that we could see. We would go hunt in Port Chatham, Windy Bay and somewhere around there and we took the Lady Mary. Walter Meganack Sr. was the next one that I would go hunting with. They all used to be fun to go hunting with. My favorite game to eat is goats, bears, stuff like that. Sometimes we would go get a moose. You have to have a license for that. Windy Bay is where we would go get our goats when we would hunt.

A few years ago, I was fishing out by Johnson Slough in my little skiff. I caught something but I couldn't pull it in. I kept trying and trying but it wouldn't come up. It kept pulling my skiff out towards the ocean. I started the motor and headed back to Johnson Slough. Then it pulled me out again. I started the motor again and went to the slough and hit the bank as hard as I could to beach it. I got on the shore and started pulling the fish in. After what felt like forever, a big halibut finally came up. I got it up on the bank and it had to be over 350 pounds. I used a come-along cable pull to get it in the skiff. When I finally got it in, it filled the entire skiff with its huge size. That's the biggest halibut I've ever caught.



Spouse-Anesia Tanpe
Father-Alexander Anahonak
Mother- Dora Malchoff
Children- Dennis, Peter Jr., Vera,
Sharon, Luba

Port Graham Apartments



Interview with Donald Nelson, Manager

By Jonathan Anahonak

The owners of the apartments are North Pacific Rim Housing Authority (NPRHA).

The apartments were built nine or ten years ago. This has been my third year working for the apartments. I have been working for the housing authority for five years. There are three units. The office unit has three, one bedroom apartments, with one being a handicap unit. The other two units are three bedrooms (two in each unit) with one handicap accessible.

The units are eligible to rent for low income people or as temporary housing. The rent is based on the family's yearly income.

Also, we own the Mush Building, an assisted living home. There are only a couple of villages that have this type of building. At present, we are not using it for this purpose because there isn't a demand and staffing is not available.

The Mush Building is currently being used for the treatment program.

NPRHA is located in Cordova, Valdez, Nanwalek, Tatitlek, Seward, Port Graham and Chenega. The headquarters is located in Anchorage.



Lydia McMullen

By Kimber Moonin

I was born February 23, 1960 and I was named after Umma's Lydia and Anesia. My father's name was George M. Cook and my mother's maiden name was Annie Tanape. My mom was native and my dad was non-native. Also, my dad was originally from Scotland, but he was born in Oklahoma.

My mom spoke mostly Sugcestun and she would fight with my dad and my dad would speak to me in English and would say, "Don't speak that around me. I don't know what you are saying." So when we were around my dad we couldn't speak Sugcestun.



Harbor Seal caught in Port Graham Bay

Then, when my dad was gone my mom would say, "Don't you speak English around me!" So we used to get caught on both sides. It got to the point where I failed at both languages and I still struggle with both languages because of a mental block that was put up and we would get punished whichever language we spoke. I never spoke the native language fluently. I learned English later on when we moved out of Alaska in 1970, but when I moved back to Nanwalek, I relearned it all. That was in the 1980's.

When I first moved back, the first thing that my mom told me was, "You've been around white people too long. You're going to learn your native way and follow your mumka (godmother) around." I had to follow her; Stephanida (Juanita, Uncle John's sister) around for one year and she would speak nothing but Sugcestun. She was very patient with me.

She would ask if I wanted sarrsaq (tea in Sugcestun) and I would look at her like, "What are you talking about?" and she wouldn't say tea, she would just keep saying it another way. I still wouldn't understand until she would get up and go get a cup of tea and put it in front of me and she would say it again. And that's how I learned it.

Stephanida taught me about our Native Heritage and Russian Orthodox life style. She also would show me which plants to pick for native medicine. I learned how to fish, clean hides, cut sea lion, and preserve fish.



Once I followed my step-uncle, Nick Tanape, hunting. In the 80's it was taboo for women to go off hunting with the men, but I went anyway. He took me seal hunting and I was suppose to shoot the seal with a pistol, but I couldn't do it. I had too much compassion for the seal. He never took me again.

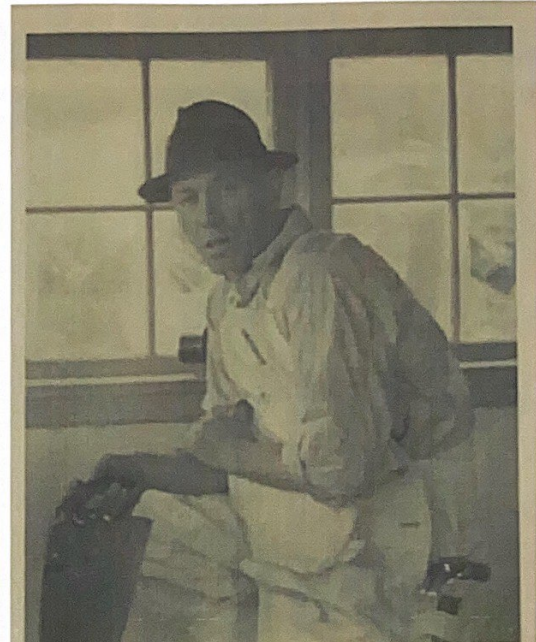
My mom taught me how to collect seagull eggs to eat at Gull Island. We learned that you should always leave one in the nest so they will lay more. We would also make seagull soup. Our ancestors used to make rattles from Puffin beaks and also collected puffin eggs.

I was born when my dad was 59 years old, and my mom was 24. Nina and Waldo were born before me. The first child my mom had, passed away. I'm the only child with my mom and George Cook. My great uncle (about 11 generations back) is Captain James Cook. He was the one who explored Alaska and the Cook Inlet is named after him. And my maiden name is Cook.

I moved to Port Graham in 1987. I worked here in 1985 at the cannery and in the office as a bookkeeper assistance for Chugach AK Fisheries. I have lived here longer then I did in Nanwalek, and that's how I met Melvin and had Justin and Sabrina. Sabrina was Miss Teen Alaska in 2005.



Lydia's mom, Annie



#6-17
George Maylon Cook
Building his home in Alaska
Probably in the late 1950's or early 1960's

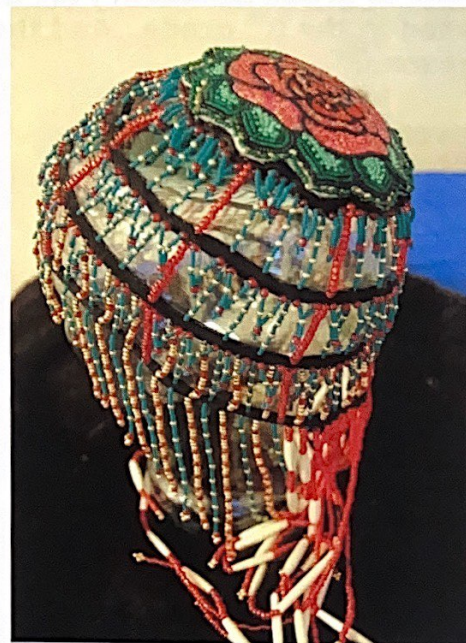
Lydia's dad, George

**My advice to the kids is only take what you need and don't be stingy.
Also, if you put your mind to it, you can do anything.**

**Spouse- Jeff McMullen
Children- Sylvester, Sasha Alexandra,
Sabrina Anna, Justin Nicholas
Grandchild- Alexander**

**Father- George M. Cook
Mother- Annie Tanape
Brothers/sisters- Nina, Waldo, Melinda,
Joseph, Anesia, Natalie**

**Mother's father- Timothy Ukatish
Mother's mother- Anesia Moonin**



Native head dress made by Lydia

Harrietta McGhan



By Kimber Moonin

I was born and raised in Port Graham.

I went to grade school in Port Graham, then quit and went to Seldovia and started in the 8th grade. And then, I don't know, let's just say I quit for "Reasons."

I never got the help I needed in school. I was very shy and was scared to ask for help. I used to ask some of the kids in school to give me the answers and I knew that wasn't helping. But it was very embarrassing for us to ask for things we needed to know.

I didn't speak as much of our language as I should of. It was hard for me to speak English. Some of them would speak Aleut, but my dad was an out of town white man and he and my mom would talk English to us. My dad was from Bellingham.

I was kind of a loner myself. I would feed our chickens and I loved to watch them. They laid lots of eggs and taking care of them kept me going and occupied. I liked to go pick berries in the summer time.

Some of my cousins and I would find old stuff in the summertime that people threw away; things like pots and dishes or household stuff, and

we'd play house. We'd make little houses out in the grass or in a stump. We'd take and make some pretty nice looking pretend soup and vegetables out of dead roots and grass. We made mud pies and played with our dolls and teddy bears.

When I got older, I baby sat for families in the village. Money was no big deal. I did it to help out. I even cleaned houses and baked bread.

I was close to my Dad. I think it is very important for kids to spend time with their parents.

When I was about 12 years old, I worked in the cannery. I worked on the packing table.

I moved to Anchorage with my sister. I met an Air Force guy, got married, and moved to North Carolina in February 1957. I had a son in 1960. I moved back here after the earthquake in 1964.

I had met Cliff in 1958. He had three kids. At first, to be honest, I couldn't stand him. My mom loved him and now I know we were meant for each other. We've been together over 37 years. After I came back I took EMT training and started working as a CNA health representative.

Harrietta Pearl (Norman) McGhan

Spouse- Clifford McGhan

Father- Harry Norman Mother- Barbara Norman

Children- Anna Bonfiglio, Nelson Childers

Brothers/sisters- Ella Norman, Marvin Norman, Harrietta Polyeen (died at birth), Harry Norman Jr., Elenore McMullen, Christina Saracoff



Sisters, Jennie and Stella



"We got into a lot of mischief when we were little."

Jennie Tanape and Stella Meganack

By Jonathan Anahonak

(Stella) I was born here in Port Graham on July 1, 1950. I grew up with my grandma and grandpa. I was two or three years old when I went to live with them. I was spoiled.

(Jennie) I was born on July 2, 1948. I moved to Seldovia when I was only sixteen. I mostly lived with friends and baby sat while I was there. I moved back here, to Port Graham, after I had Demetri. The thing that I remember most about Port Graham, before I left to Seldovia, is playing around with a bunch of kids and playing ball outside. I went to school up to the fourth or fifth grade.

(Stella) We used to play Aleut Baseball, tag and swing. We would push everybody around on the swing until they got dizzy. We didn't have anything that the school has now. We would have to make our own swings and sometimes they would push us so hard we would bump into a tree. We got into a lot of mischief when we were little.

(Stella) I was eighteen years old when I got married to Riley Meganack. We had four kids, three girls and one boy. Riley was a commercial fisherman.

When I was seventeen years old I worked at the cannery and I was a secretary for the Port Graham Clinic. Also, in 1979, I became an EMT and ETT and still do it. I'm now a squad leader for EMS.

(Jennie) I worked here in the cannery and for the oil spill.

(Stella) We started working for the Exxon Oil Spill in March and didn't really get hired until April. Some people worked until September. I had to quit because my kids needed me because Riley was going to go fishing. We would have to go to the same beach everyday to clean all the oil up. We would clean it by using rags. We would have to use a new one each time and then throw the old one away because you couldn't use it anymore. We would fly down to Windy Bay and stay for two weeks and then fly back home and stay for two weeks. So it was two weeks on and two weeks off.

We would live on a boat while we were down in Windy Bay. It was men and women that would go, and they would give us monkey suits so we wouldn't get oil on us. We would practically be on our hands and knees all the time cleaning the oil up. We made seventeen dollars an hour and worked 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. We would have to wear masks because the smell of the oil was so bad. All of the men that had boats would clean it up with their booms. Port Graham had a boat cleaning station and every time a boat would come in we would have to clean it and have it inspected. There were only one or two boats that we had to re-clean.

Jennie Kamluck Tanape
Spouse- Lloyd Tanape Sr. (divorced)
Children- Demetri, Lloyd Jr., Robert, Kevin

Stella Meganack
Spouse- Riley Meganack (deceased)
Children- Anna Marie, Laura, Rita May, Ryan

Father- Dick Kamluck, Jr.
Mother- Dora Kanluck
Paternal Grandfather- Dick Kamluck, Sr.
Paternal Grandmother- Stella Kamluck
Maternal Grandfather- Andrew Kamluck Sr.
Maternal Grandmother- Dora Anahonak



Sally Carlouh in her "Monkey Suit" cleaning up oil

Windy Bay got hit the hardest because of the currents that went into the bay. People from different places would have to go to different areas, for instance, Seldovia didn't go to our area, and Port Graham was the only one to go to Windy Bay. Riley's fishing stopped for awhile because of the oil that was on the fish.

(Stella) My thoughts of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill was how devastating it was to all our food and subsistence. Like seaweed, because of the oil, it took so long for the stuff to grow back. Barnacles would tell us everything was alive on a beach because they would make a hissing noise. But when we went out there, during the oil spill, they didn't do anything, they all were off the rocks, dead. There were some sea gulls and ducks that survived, but they were sent to Homer to be cleaned up. The Seldovia crew would pile the animals up, sometimes they got really high up, and the only way that they could get rid of them was by burning them.

Advice to the young people of Port Graham:

(Stella) Finish school, respect elders and ask them if they need help. Also, school is the most important thing in life.

(Jennie) Respect elders and ask them if they need help, instead of dusting us out (with four wheelers).

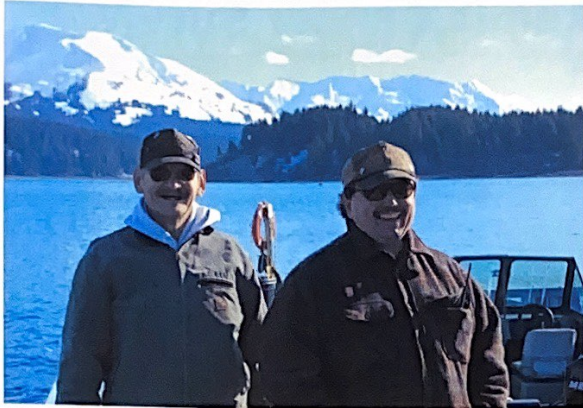


Some of the cleaning crew

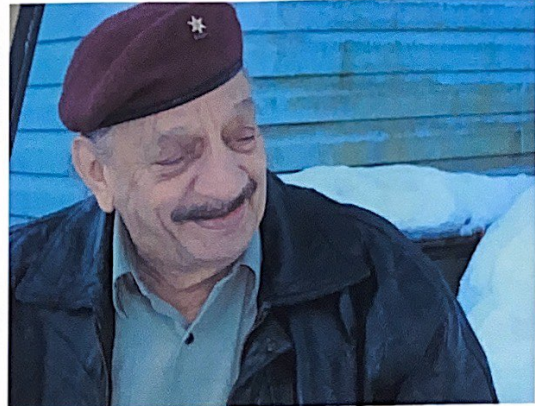


Cleaning crew in their "Monkey Suits"

A few more faces and sites of Port Graham



Ralph Moonin and Wayne Norman



Johan Vicioso



Walter Meganack Jr. going fishing



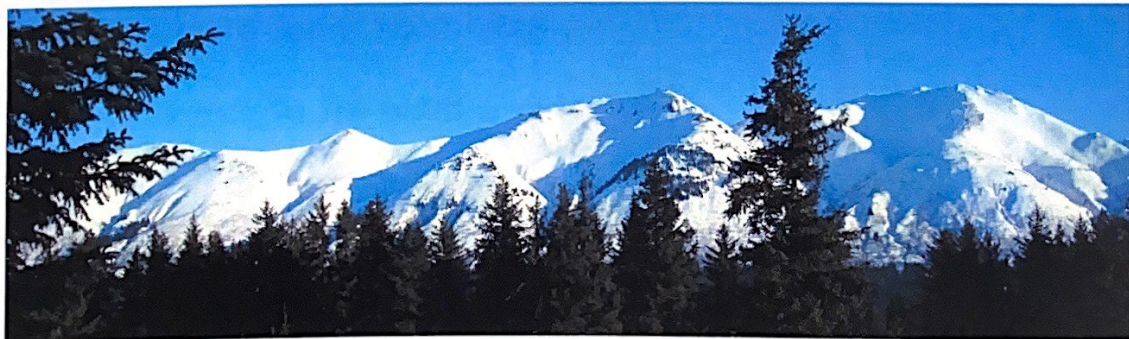
Richard Moonin getting ready for banya



Herman Moonin, Don Nelson, and Karl Thiele getting ready to "sand" the icy roads of Port Graham



An eagle enjoys the remains of a sea lion



The mountains across the bay are always beautiful

Herman Moonin – A Leukemia Cancer Survivor



By Julie Anahonak

I was born in Port Graham in 1957. I've lived here almost all my life.

I was raised by my Grandmother, Malania Malchoff and Uncle, Tim Malchoff. I went to grade school in Port Graham and four years of high school in Kenai.

I've been a commercial fisherman for over thirty years. I fished on several boats with the Lady Mary being the last. I've fished pretty much salmon to herring; gill netting, long lining for halibut.

I started fishing in Cook Inlet. I also have fished in Prince William Sound. I've lived on subsistence most of my life.

My hobbies include photography, a little bit of carving, and some amateur painting.

I am a cancer survivor. They diagnosed me with leukemia (CLM) in 1987. I had a bone marrow transplant in 1989 in Seattle. It's been 19 years now and I'm cancer free. I have an

unrelated donor that I haven't met yet; although I have talked to him.

I have three boys, two daughters, and three grandkids. Sam lives in the house I built in Port Graham, Brandon is in Tatitlek, and Tasha and Cora live in Anchorage.

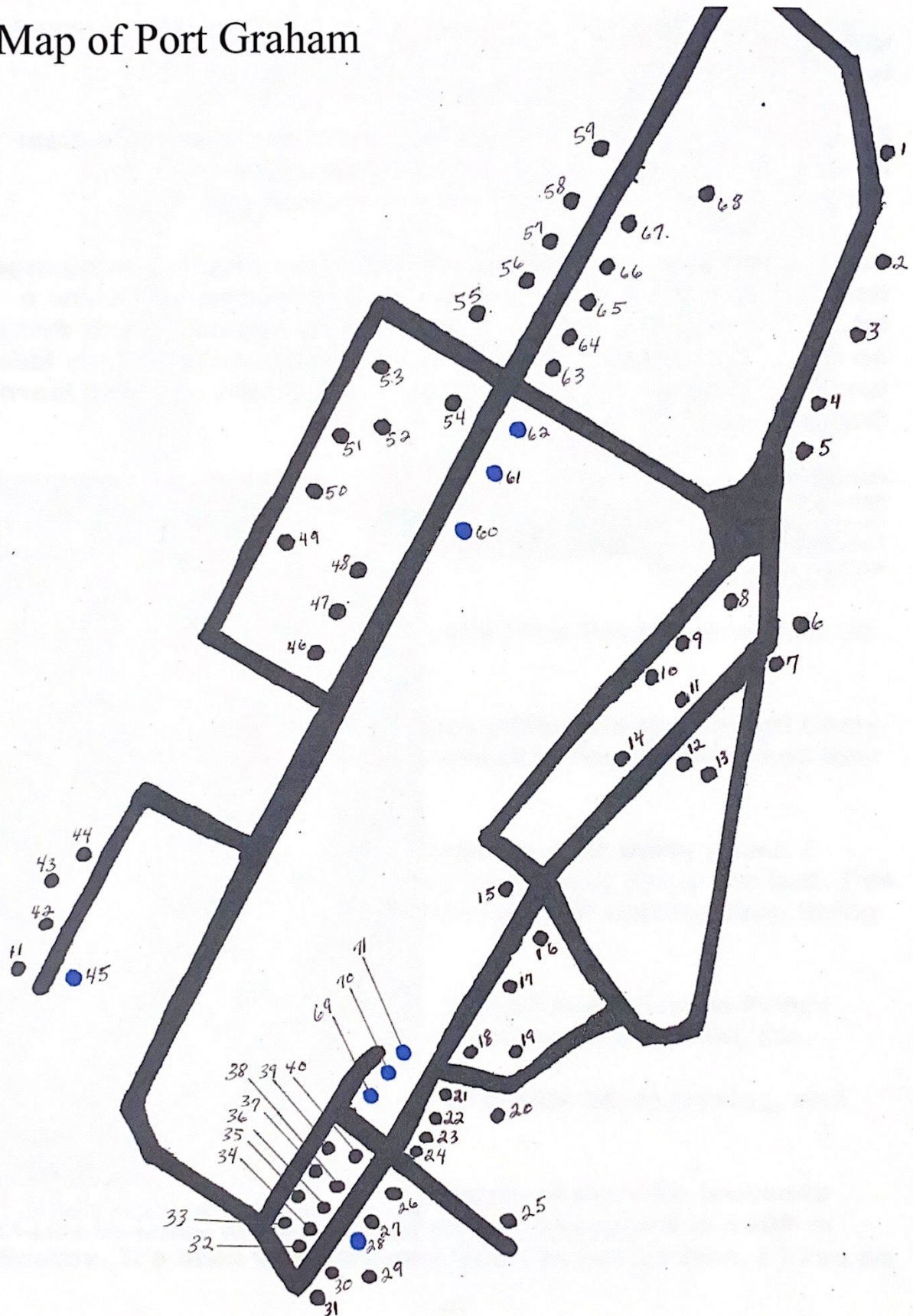
Advice: The kids that are interested in learning their language have a great future. If you know your language, you know a lot. We have a language that is slowly disappearing and dying on us. I have taught in the classroom in the past and my kids were also part of my students. Let's start right now and learn Sugcestun.

Herman Moonin
Spouse-Karen
Children-Sam, Brandon, Tasha, Cora
Father- Herman Moonin, Sr.
Mother- Annie Malchoff



Herman Moonin, Sr. and Ralph Ukatish
serving in the Army somewhere in the
Aleutian Islands

Map of Port Graham



1. Tania McMullen, Koa Justin Smith, Bobby Woo Smith
 2. Raymond Fomin
 3. Victor and Jenny Carlough
 4. Wes and Pam Breedlove, Tyson, Logan
 5. Cliff and Harrietta McGhan, Bob Heinbuch
 6. School -Jim and Peggy Hoobler; Brody and Courtney Lambaiso; Hannah Campen
 7. Ralph Moonin
 8. Mary Malchoff
 9. Dale and Vivan Malchoff, Tim
 10. Jim and Agnes Miller, William
 11. Jenny Tanape, Demetri
 12. John and Dorothy Moonin
 13. Gordon and Becky Norman, Andrew, Nikalai, Kobe, Kaleen
 14. Wallace Moonin, Richard Moonin
 15. Mickey and Alice Anahonak, Juliana
 16. Vacant
 17. Nadia Ukatish, Leslie
 18. Peter Anahonak, Sr., Peter Anahonak Jr.
 19. Vera Meganack
 20. Myra Mumchuck (out of town)
 21. Harvey Meganack
 22. Ben Meganack, Sr., Basil
 23. Ephim Sr. and Melinda Kamluck
 24. Jean Huntsman (part-time)
 25. Stella Meganack, Kelsey Meganack
 26. Vacant
 27. Ephim Kamluck Jr. (Spock)
 28. Tom and Feona Sawden
 29. Vacant
 30. Ben Meganack Jr.
 31. Travis Norman
 32. Vacant
 33. Walter Meganack, Nicholas
 34. Johan Vicioso
 35. Issac Moonin
 36. Vacant
 37. Olga Fomin
 38. Alex Moonin, Clara Moonin
 39. Dennis Anahonak
 40. Patsy McComack
 41. Vacant NPR Housing
 42. Melvin Malchoff and Rita Meganack, Michael Anahonak, Ashlen Malchoff, Asten Meganack
 43. Church of the First Born; Stephen and Ester Napir, Patrick, Kaleb, Andrew, Josiah, Kristen Heritage
 44. Ryan Meganack
 45. Mush Bldg.
 46. Wayne Norman, Kristan Norman, Darren Moonin
 47. Martin Norman and Heather O'Domin, Monique Cook, James Cook, Kyle Lestenkof
 48. Ben Meganack Jr.
 49. Simeon Kvasnikoff, Sheila Van Hassett, Simeon Jr.
 50. Marlene Norman
 51. Ephim and Darlene Anahonak, Jonathan
 52. Samuel Moonin, Michelle Hetrick
 53. VACANT
 54. Patrick and Frances Norman
 55. Heather Joseph, Cyrena, Malachi
 56. Nick Moonin, Fenia Anahonak
 57. Jeff and Lydia Mc Mullen, Calvin George, Sasha Kvasnikoff/baby, Sly McClin, Sabrina Malchoff
 58. Herman and Karen Moonin
 59. Debbie Mc Mullen
 60. Paul Moonin, Lisa
 61. Quentin and Dana McMullen, Caleb
 62. Tom and Violet Yeaton, Lawrence
 63. Vacant
 64. Don Nelson
 65. Vacant
 66. Sherry Glahn, Burt Kvashihoff
 67. Anesia Kamluck, Carl McClarrion
 68. Bob and Elenore McMullen, Matthew, Robert
 69. Apartment 1- Billy Meganack; Gabe Smith
 70. Apartment 2- Polly Anne Moonin, Joleen Moonin, Kimber Moonin, Charles Moonin, Tatiana Moonin-Thiele, Karl Thiele; Luba Anahonak, Ricky Yeaton, Jordan Anahonak;
 71. Apartment 3- Pauline Allen; Bobbie McMullen, Zeth Meganack
- Other-Perley and Debbie Morrison at AC Point