

Alaska State Library  
Historical Collections

Guide to Collection

Norbert, Eileen, Compiler

Charles Menadelook Project Photograph Collection, ca. 1900-1970

PCA 209

ca. 250 images

Processed: Staff

**ACQUISITION:** Eileen Norbert collected these photographs while studying Anthropology at the University of Alaska Anchorage. Her project was funded with a grant from the Alaska Historical Commission and the Eskimo Heritage Program of Kawerak, Inc., Nome, Alaska. She donated copies of the photographs upon completing the project, November 15, 1982.

**ACCESS:** The photographs may be viewed, however, the images may not be photocopied.

**COPYRIGHT:** Reproduction of the photographs is restricted. Inquiries should be directed to:

Eileen Norbert  
(907) 442-5847 (Aug. 2004)  
(907) 332-8422 (Sept. 2004 - ?)

**PROCESSING:** The photos are sleeved in Mylar. Descriptions were collected and composed by Eileen Norbert.

### Biographical / Historical Note

Charles Menadelook, an Inupiaq, was born in Wales, Alaska in the late 1800's. He was one of the first Alaska Natives to become a teacher. His teaching positions took him to Wales, Nome, Gambell and Unalaska where he not only taught school but also became an avid photographer. His oldest son was among the first Alaska Natives to study engineering at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Eileen Norbert, granddaughter of Charles Menadelook, began this project in 1975 while a senior in anthropology at the University of Alaska in Anchorage, to prove that Alaska Natives who record their own lifestyle can provide greater information and understanding of their own culture. She inherited many of her grandfather's photographs and collected those of other Alaskan Native photographers. With a grant from the Alaska Historical Commission and the regional tribal organization, Kawerak, she returned to Nome and collected and documented in detail 198 photographs from the collections of Eileen Norbert, Davis Menadelook, Thomas Menadelook, Paul Soolook, John Norbert, Catherine Tobuk, Dora Ahkinga, David Maloney, Etta Menadelook and Teresa Soolook [Portions from: *Alaska Native News*, Dec. 1982, p. 10-13]

### Scope and Contents Note

The collection depicts Eskimo culture, people and village traditional activities, ca. 1900-1970. Locations include Nome, Gambell, Little Diomed, Unalaska and Seward Peninsula villages. Her descriptions include names of people, detailed description of clothing, family relationships and activities. In addition to Charles Menadelook, photographers Marion Norbert, Arthur Nagozaruk, Sr. and others are represented in the collection. [Portions from: *Alaska Native News*, Dec. 1982, p. 10-13]. Photographers include Charles Menadelook, Marion Norbert and Arthur Nagozaruk, Sr.; and views by unnamed photographers.

### Inventory

[The photographs are divided into eight folders. Each view has is given a three- part number indicating the year during which the compiler researched each collection; the number assigned to each collection; and, the number assigned to each photograph within the collection.]

Example:        82 . 1 . 1 = year / collection / photograph number

#### Folders 1 and 2

#75.2.1 - 75.2.88

Eileen Norbert Collection:

[Scenics and village people at (Little) Diomed, Gambell, Wales, Nome, Shaktoolik, King Island, Shishmaref and Unalaska ca. 1920-1950.]

#### Folders 3 and 4

#82-1.1-82.1.45

Davis Menadelook Collection:

[Scenics and village people at (Little) Diomed, Gambell, Wales, Shaktoolik, Nome, Golovin area, Shishmaref and Mary's Igloo. ca. 1920-1950.]

**Folder 5**

#82.3.1-82.3.6

Thomas Menadelook Collection:

[Scenics and village people at (Little) Diomedes, Noatak and Unalaska. ca.,1920-1940.]

#82.4.1-82.4.28

Paul Soolook Collection:

[Scenics and village people at Eklutna. (Little) Diomedes and Nome. ca. 1925-1943.]

**Folder 6**

#82.5.1

John Norbert Collection:

[Nome Eskimo dancers and drummers. no date.]

#82.6.1

Catherine Tobuk Collection:

[Eskimo mother and young child, Nome. ca. 1918.]

#82. 7. 1

Dora Ahkinga Collection: [Three men covering umiak with walrus skins, Wales. ca. 1970.]

#82.8.1-82.8.38

Dave/Ruth Maloney Collection:

[Scenics and village people at (Little) Diomedes, Nome and Kotzebue. ca. 1930-1940.]

**Folder 7**

#82.9.0-82.9.6

David Maloney Collection:

[Scenics and village people at Nome, (Little) Diomedes and Mary's Igloo. ca. 1909-1940.]

#82.10.2-82.10.18

Etta Menadelook/Teresa Soolook Collection:

[Scenics and village people at Wales, Nome and other unidentified locations. ca. 1918-1930.]

**Folder 8**

#82.10.19-82.10.37

Etta Menadelook/Teresa Soolook Collection: (cont'd)

[Scenics and village people at Mary's Igloo, Shishmaref, (Little) Diomedes and Wales. ca. 1900-1920.]

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revised 8/23/2004*