

Prudhoe Bay General Store

In 1977 Jim and Elaine Childs, with their four sons, came to Prudhoe Bay in a camper to work in the oilfields. Jim was a mechanic and an asphalt worker, and they figured it was only a matter of time before the oilfield would require paved roads (has not happened yet).

Eventually Jim and Elaine started their own company in Prudhoe Bay-Childs' Equipment Services. Their "camp" became the place to go when people arrived in Deadhorse looking for work or just a place to stay while they got oriented.

So many of the oilfield workers, some who worked nine-week hitches or more, ran out of necessary items, from toothpaste to socks, so Elaine began to carry sundry items in a little four-foot glass case, and Prudhoe Bay General Store was born.

Located across from the Sag River next to the current home of Colville, Inc., this first Prudhoe Bay was a ragtag collection of old camps and buildings collected from around the oilfield.

As prosperous times continued, owner Jim Childs remodeled and put in a solid plywood floor. At one time, a shopper could come to the store and cash a payroll check, select from an amazing variety of merchandise, get a haircut or manicure, see a chiropractor, go tanning in one of tanning beds, rent a hot tub room by the hour, buy jewelry, or fresh flowers, or hire a clown named Kizzy to deliver balloons or flowers in the oilfield!

In 1985, Co-op Drug and Photo of Fairbanks took over Childs' original retail and postal outlet, and continued to operate it until it was acquired by Colville, Inc. in late 2004. Coville moved the general store to newly remodeled quarters in the upstairs of the Brooks Range Supply facility on Old Spine Road. This locates the general store in the same building as Prudhoe Bay's main industrial and hardware supply source and present post office.

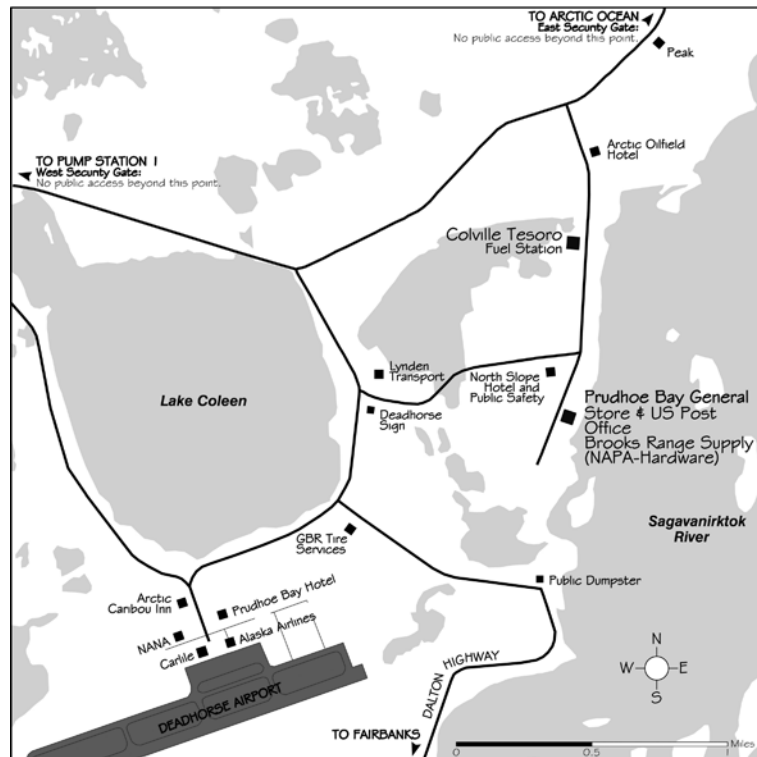
About the only exceptions to the vast assortment of goods available are alcohol, ammunition, and weapons, which are not allowed in Deadhorse. Typical groceries are not carried, since the residents of Prudhoe Bay/Deadhorse and the outlying oilfields reside in oilfield "camps" where regular meals are provided to the workers.



Denver, the store cat.



PRUDHOE BAY/DEADHORSE



Map Courtesy of:



Brooks Range Supply, Inc
(907) 659-2550



Colville, Inc
(907) 659-3198



Prudhoe Bay General Store & Post Office
(907) 659-2412