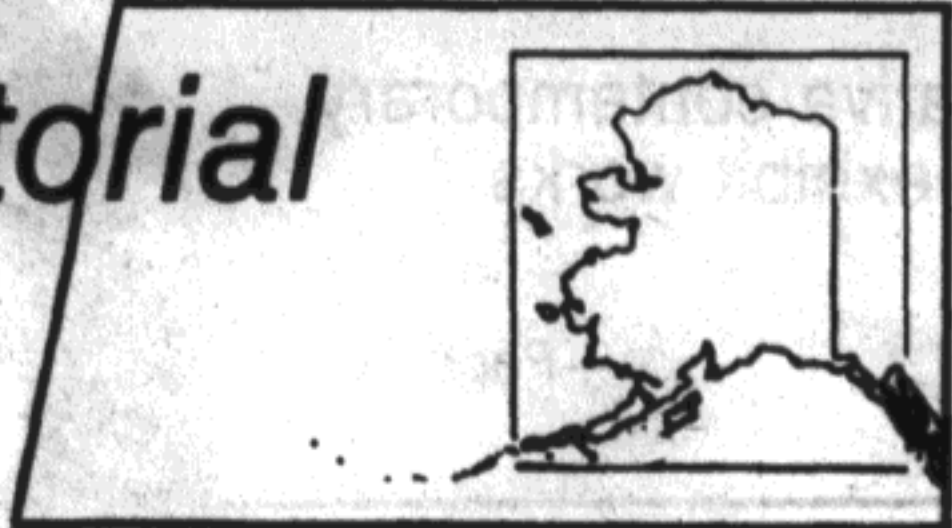


Editorial



A fond farewell to George Nelson

George N. Nelson, president of BP Exploration Alaska will retire Dec. 31 after a 35-year oil industry career. When his retirement starts, and he looks back on his 13 years in Alaska, he can feel satisfied about his many accomplishments in the state in general and in the Alaska Native community in particular.

In 1977 Nelson transferred to Alaska, and he served as Prudhoe Bay field manager for British Petroleum. He became president of Sohio Alaska Petroleum Co. in 1982. His years of leadership at Sohio, now BP, have been marked by achievement in Alaska's economic, social and educational arenas.

The Alaska Native community will perhaps best remember Nelson for his role in encouraging joint ventures between Native corporations and oil field service companies. He's been instrumental in getting Native involvement in the state's largest industry.

Nelson is also largely responsible for BP's high profile in many social areas. The company contributed heavily to everything from Bean's Cafe to the performing arts during Nelson's time at the helm.

And, while Nelson was president, BP became a very strong supporter of the *Tundra Times*. Besides purchasing substantial advertising that benefits the newspaper as well as important social causes, BP has provided strong support to the *Tundra Times* banquet.

In addition, Nelson placed one of BP's key executives — Jim Palmer — on our board of directors, and Palmer has played an important role in bringing the paper back to health.

But despite all these important business issues, it's hard to remember George Nelson in anything other than very human terms. Even people who hardly knew the man were aware of the fact that he could be extremely tough. The one thing about George Nelson was: You might not always agree with him, but you always knew where you stood.

We think he stood for a lot of good things in Alaska, and we're sorry to see him go. We wish him well.

