

LUTSEN RESORT THE Legacy



C.A.A. Nelson



White Sky rowing a skiff in front of Lutsen Resort

Pluck, Grit & 160 Acres of Land



The Seagulls benefit at the end of a days fishing

The story of Lutsen Resort has its origins in 1881, when Charles Axel Nelson (“C.A.A.”) emigrated from Sweden to Duluth at the age of 18. There he married Anna Peterson, also a Swedish native, and worked as a captain of a fishing tug. He frequently cast his nets near rivers along the North Shore, and the cove at the mouth of the Poplar River was his favorite spot. C.A.A.’s skill as a fisherman caught the attention of the A. Booth Packing Company office in Duluth, and the company offered him his own boat and fishing supplies on credit, if he would become one of their suppliers. C.A.A. agreed, and in 1885 he filed a homestead for 160 acres at the mouth of the Poplar River. It cost him twelve dollars.

Anna remained in Duluth while C.A.A. built a shanty, followed by a log cabin on the hill, a fish house and a dock. The next year he was joined by his wife and their infant son, Carl. They found their new home comfortable, but quite remote, with their closest neighbors ten miles down the shore. Hard work was in store, including logging their land with a team of oxen, hunting and trading in furs, potato farming, and fishing as far away as Isle Royale. C.A.A. trapped up to 25 bears each year, butchering them and sending the meat to Chicago. **C.A.A.’s exploits sometimes seem mythical, as when he rowed a boat from Two Harbors to Lutsen without stopping,** approximately 70 miles. In 1888, C.A.A.’s parents and two brothers, Gust and Alfred, left Sweden to join C.A.A. and his family.

Visitors to the region seeking shelter soon discovered hospitality at the Nelson’s home. New settlers to the region such as hunters, fishermen, mineral explorers, loggers, and timber “cruisers” arrived by boat in the rough Lake Superior waters, or came overland on trails via wagon, sleigh, horseback, dog team or simply on foot. At first, C.A.A. and Anna put up lodgers in their home and in the hay loft of their barn. Anna handled all the work involved in providing for their visitors including cooking hearty Swedish fare for hungry guests and carrying water up from the lake for cooking & cleaning. C.A.A. began a guide service for the fishermen and hunters, and word of the plentiful supply of moose, bear and fish soon began to spread to the Twin Cities, Chicago, and beyond.



C.A.A Nelson early family photo



C.A.A and Anna

In reality, the “Lutzen House” was merely the second floor of the large house that C.A.A. built in 1893. Often, their own children were displaced to make room for their guests. To take care of the needs of the fledgling settlement, a small town sprung up at the homestead site, including a post office, general store and town hall. The Nelson’s family grew as well, with the birth of daughters Ida, Hilda, Elsie, and sons Edwin, George and Oscar joining their first-born son, Carl.

“The Lutzen House is crowded with guests upon the arrival of every boat, and the weary traveler is well-pleased with the spacious rooms, while the meals cannot be excelled.”

- Cook County News Herald 1893

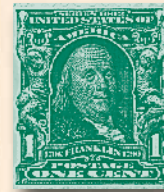


Loading supplies and visitors at the Resorts dock

A family gathering at the Resort



How Lutsen Got its Name



Back in 1890 C.A.A. Nelson decided it was necessary for the settlement to have a post office. To establish a post office, the law required that a township be created. C. A. A. first submitted the name of Poplar, due to the plentiful supply of the tree on his property, but when he was told it couldn’t be used because another postal location had already claimed that name, he chose “Lutsen.”

The name commemorates the Battle of Lutzen in 1632 during the Hundred Years War, in which Sweden fought against Austria near a village named Lutzen, located in the German principality of West Saxony. Sweden’s King Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden was killed at that battle, and C.A.A. first spelled the name “Lutzen,” as its German counterpart was spelled.

In 1893, the Cook County Herald began a regular column called “Lutzen Items.” However, by 1895, newspaper accounts began printing the name with the familiar “Lutsen” spelling.



From Trails to Turnpike



Getting from “here” to “there” required roads and strong men to build them

At first, Lutsen was accessible only by travel on Lake Superior. While a seasonal “stage road” was opened in the early days, it was used only in the winter. It wasn’t until 1918 that the first year-round road, Old Highway 1, was built. The first paved road was constructed in the 1930’s.

Before these official roads came to be, the young Nelson brothers made their own trail that wandered northward from the Lakeshore to the moose country headwaters of the Poplar and Temperance Rivers where they maintained a large hunting camp made up of shacks, a barn and large tents. This trail for horses and wagons, ascending on the west side of the Poplar River, was often used for hotel guests, as well as by local residents. It became known as the “Nelson Moose Road.” By the year 1900, the road extended into the woods 14 miles to the Temperance River. The family, unsuccessfully, sought to get the road extended northward to the Canadian Border to help not only the resort, but the settlers, timber claimants, and mineral prospectors. Many years later, the U.S. Forest Service finally added an additional seven miles to the old “Nelson Moose Road,” finally connecting it to Sawbill Lake.

The Bus Stops Here

In the early days, C.A.A. Nelson convinced The Greyhound Bus Company to add Lutsen to its regular stops in the region, and guests soon began to arrive via the highway. Greyhound got its start in Hibbing, Minnesota in 1913. Records show that a trip from Hibbing to Alice (a small, nearby community) in a Greyhound Hupmobile cost **fifteen cents, one-way**. By the early 1920s, Greyhound was running buses to Duluth, and the fare was \$2.75.



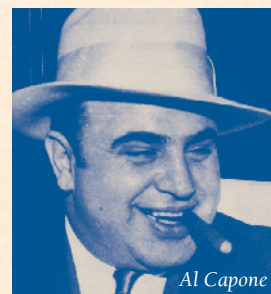
A Greyhound stop

Famous Visitors

Lincoln didn't sleep here, but other famous (and infamous) people have spent time at Lutsen.

John Beargrease was a frequent guest on his travels up and down the shore. Beargrease was the famous Ojibway mailman who covered the difficult and dangerous route from Two Harbors to Grand Marais by dog sled during the winters of 1879-1899. The John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon is named after his heroic efforts for these early North Shore settlements.

Gangsters from Chicago found Lutsen to be a great "getaway," including **Baby-Face Nelson, John Dillinger** and **Al Capone**. Capone arrived with his "wife" and requested a more remote spot than the lodge. C.A.A. offered a fish house two



Al Capone

miles away, and when it was discovered that the fish house was riddled with bullet holes, C.A.A. demanded, and received, \$20 extra from Capone.

Other guests include **Nelson Rockefeller; Otto Bremer** (who was later kidnapped by the Karpis Gang); and **Charles and Will Mayo**, of Rochester's famous Mayo Clinic; the actress Agnes Morehead, who performed in Duluth and stopped overnight on her way to Port Arthur and paid with a bad check; **Arthur Godfrey** and his family; and **Lowell Thomas**.



The "America"

The Sinking of the America

Steamship companies brought passengers and supplies from such faraway places as Chicago to Lutsen's harbor. The steamship America, owned by the A. Booth Company of Duluth, was a familiar site at Lutsen's busy harbor. It brought many settlers to the area, such as Inga (Toftey) Nelson's family. Most of Lutsen's guests came by ship, including moose hunters who sometimes arrived a hundred at a time. Business was in such demand that the ship was lengthened in 1915.

On June 7, 1928 at 3:00 a.m. the America struck a rock near Isle Royale, and in a few minutes, the ship disappeared under 17 fathoms of water. Fortunately, all the passengers and crew survived. The loss of the steamship struck a major blow to the Booth Company, which had dominated both the commercial fishing business and tourist transportation service until that time.

Home Schooling



By the time Carl and Ida Nelson were old enough to attend school, their father decided to organize a school at the settlement. With an appropriation of \$161.48 from Cook County, a schoolroom was set up within the Nelson's busy home in 1894, and a teacher was hired. Because the schoolroom was actually located in the Nelson's family quarters which Anna had wallpapered with birch bark, the in-home classroom was aptly named "**The Birch Room.**" Classes began with eight students including the two young Nelsons and six Ojibway children. In 1896, C.A.A. built a separate school building farther up the hill to accommodate the needs of the growing community.



"The Birch Room" classroom



School children

Moose and Bear Hunting

Carl Nelson, C.A.A.'s oldest son claimed that pork was the only meat that the family ever purchased. He recalled easy success in bagging moose a few miles up the Poplar River. Deer were quite scarce in those days, and in any event, were considered too small to be eagerly hunted. With all the mouths to feed, Anna Nelson could only stretch the meat from one deer over two or three days.

Trapping bear was a common activity in the region. At age 12, Carl recalled being out with his dad when he set off on his own looking for a bear that had been trapped. The angry bear had almost chewed through the "drag tree" – a tree the trappers would chop down to add weight to the trap – and when it saw Carl, it lunged at him, and broke the drag tree in two. A true child of the wilderness, Carl froze in his tracks and waited several minutes until his dad showed up to shoot the bear.

When the moose hunting camps became a part of Lutsen Resort's activities, sometimes 100 hunters would be in the party. George Nelson, Sr. recalled that even with a group of that size, every one of them would come out with a moose.



A typical hunting group

As the popularity of the Lutsen moose camp spread far and wide, **C.A.A. received a letter from Teddy Roosevelt during his Presidency. They met in St. Paul to discuss a hunting trip the President had in mind, hunting moose on horseback. C.A.A. refused, so Roosevelt decided not to come.**

"I always thought it was funny," George, Sr. said. "They could have done it.... But my father wouldn't ride a horse. That was against his mode of traveling."

Scandinavian-Inspired Dining Style

By 1952, the current Scandinavian-style lodge was built, using mostly white pine logs taken from the Gunflint Trail area. Designed by Edwin Lundie, a Scotsman and architect who loved carved wood and Swedish design, the dining room's rustic ambience brings the flavor of the North Shore indoors. The fireplace in the dining room, like the massive fireplace in the main reception area, is built from stone taken from the area. The carving throughout the lodge was accomplished by local craftsmen. Lutsen Resort was the first place to serve "blue fin," herring with the skin removed. Visitors still enjoy traditional Swedish baked goods like pies and breads.



The Lutsen Resort Dining Room

FIRE!

In 1948, two devastating fires occurred at Lutsen Resort. Early in the year, a dormitory burned to the ground. Then on October 21, a fire swept through the main lodge, destroying the entire building. No one was hurt, but the Nelsons estimated the damage at \$200,000. A new main lodge opened in 1949, and another fire destroyed the new building on December 6, 1951. Again, no one was hurt. A new lodge was built, following the Scandinavian design by Edwin Lundie, and it is the same building that exists today.

Tapping the Power of the River

In 1918, C.A.A. decided to bring electricity to his resort. He built a generator near the lodge on the Poplar River. Today, visitors to Lutsen who follow the trail along the river can still see the building and generator. The generator provided DC-current electricity to the resort and about ten homes in the area until 1941, when electricity finally came to the region. Keeping the water intake pipes in the river clear of debris for flowage was a daily, year-round job.



The Upper footbridge on the Poplar River



The Generator Building - It is still there

A True-Blueberry Love



It was June 1914, blueberry season in the deep woods surrounding Lutsen. C.A.A. and Anna arranged a blueberry-picking outing and invited their neighbors. Their son, George Nelson, was 13 years old, and it was on this expedition that he met 13 year old Inga Toftey, a girl who enjoyed making people laugh, and was well on her way to becoming a great Scandinavian cook. To George, she was his Ingie, the most beautiful girl on the North Shore.

At 13, George was an expert woodsman, and an excellent shot with a 22 rifle. In fact, he didn't attend school during hunting season. It was his job to be the runner for the big-city moose hunters who were camped at the remote site 18 miles from the resort. Once, he carried a message to the camp, and was told the person who needed to get the message had gone on another ten miles. He continued his run, successfully delivered the message, and then proceeded to head for home. All in a day's work!

After several years of courting, George and Inga were married on May 28, 1920. "I couldn't wait to be a June bride," Inga recalled many years later.

Inga developed many of the resort's famed recipes, still served, such as buttermilk pancakes, raisin-rye bread, and her incomparable homemade white bread. She supervised the food service for many years, and her personal attention to detail set a high standard for the resort. She loved outdoor excursions of all kinds, and always delighted in packing a hearty picnic of fried chicken, fresh bread,

hard-boiled eggs, plenty of cream and sugar for the berries they would pick, and, of course, a thermos of Swedish egg coffee.

As a young man George worked hard for Lutsen Resort, serving as a moose-hunting guide, a commercial fisherman, and a Minnesota State game warden who regularly patrolled the frozen lake country with a team of dogs in the 1920s.

George and Inga spent the first few months of married life together in a canvas tent with a floor of wooden boards. Their first real home, for 27 years, was on the North Road in Lutsen. There they had two children, George, Jr. and Norinne. They spent the next 42 years in their apartment on the third floor of Lutsen Resort's main lodge.

During WWII, George and Inga were called on to operate a food service in Decatur, Illinois where they managed a 28-employee cafeteria serving as many as 10,000 ammunition plant workers a day.

Lutsen and blueberries always remained an important part of George and Inga's relationship. Throughout their life together, George and Inga went blueberry picking each season, frequently picking so many berries that the frozen supply would hold out so that winter guests could enjoy a taste of summer when they ordered Lutsen Resort's famous blueberry pie.

George died in 1993 at the age of 92, and Inga passed away in 1994 at the age of 93.

Their love story remains a part of Lutsen and the wilderness surrounding it.



George Sr. and Inga



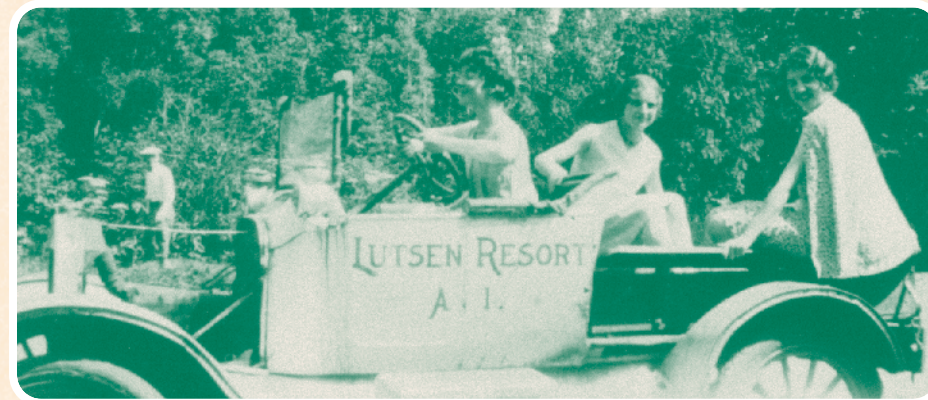
Rustic Recreation



George Nelson, Sr. recalled, as a young boy, how he and his brothers and sisters made their own skis out of planks of wood. They also ice skated on Lake Superior, sometimes as far as Grand Marais.

"I can remember one morning looking out over the lake and we saw three skaters go by. We later found out they were the Croft boys from Grand Marais, skating to Duluth," he recalled in a recorded interview with the Grand Marais Library in 1981.

Dances were held every Saturday night in the town hall, a room over the general store, and the Nelson family rarely missed one. Swedish Midsummers Day was a traditional holiday for the Nelson family and their friends, with outings up in the mountains, or boating out to an island in the lake, with plenty of food and perhaps a little fishing.



Rx: The Fresh Air of Lutsen

Two Minneapolis physicians visited the resort in the 1890s and, upon their return home, began sending their patients to Lutsen for relief from hayfever and as therapy for tuberculosis. The fresh, pollen-free air served as a tonic for these health-seekers. Later, the Mayo brothers visited Lutsen Resort, adding to its reputation as a restorative site.

Gone Fishin'

During the early days of commercial fishing at Lutsen, fishermen netted many sturgeon, the mysterious, huge fish that lurk at the bottom of Lake Superior. As their numbers diminished, fishermen concentrated more on lake trout, bluefin (herring), ciscoes and whitefish. The fish that were still alive when the boats got to shore were dressed and packed in ice; and those that didn't survive the trip were dressed and salted, and packed in 100-pound kegs for market.

A story is told that George Nelson, Senior and his brother-in-law Chris West from Tofte went fishing for brook trout in the upper Temperance River. They returned with their limit of trout, all over 14 inches long. They never went back, and never told the exact location they had fished.

For many years, the Nelsons stocked rainbow trout in the Poplar River, and for years, fishermen have been catching descendants of these beautiful fish, both for the sport, as well as their terrific taste.



A nice days catch

Life at Lutsen

The early days of the resort business must have been nearly overwhelming for Anna Nelson. According to Carl, her oldest son, she had no help, other than her own children. Bringing water from the lake was a never-ending chore, summer and winter. Anna's younger son, George, recalled that John Beargrease and other men with dog teams on the North Shore route often stopped at the hotel for rest and food, in exchange for a tour of heavy duty with the water buckets.

The nearest medical help was 21 miles away in Grand Marais, and C.A.A. served as the unofficial "dentist," removing teeth by yanking them out. Another of Carl's sons suffered lockjaw when he tripped and fell on a metal spike, running it through his tongue. He suffered terribly, Willard Nelson recalled, but survived the ordeal. **"You either made it – you were tough stock – or you died,"** he said.

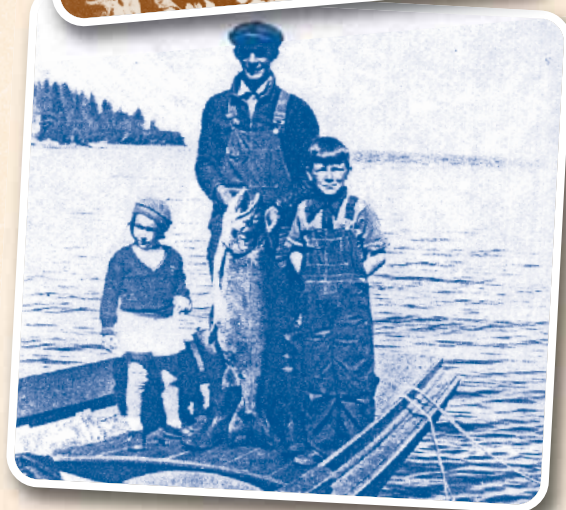
The power of the lake and the harsh weather of the North Shore made daily existence a matter of life and death. George Nelson, Sr. was interviewed by Sam Cook of the Duluth News-Tribune in 1989. He vividly remembered a tragedy he witnessed as a young boy. It was early spring and the melting snows had created a torrent which washed out the bridge over the Poplar River near Lutsen. The mail carrier attempted to cross the river on horseback, his usual mode of travel, but was quickly washed into the lake. George, Sr. remembered him calling, "Save the horse!" His body was found days later down the shore.

There were many other close calls with Lake Superior. Carl Nelson learned to run a sailboat before he was thirteen years old. He recalled fishing with his father near Ashland, Wisconsin, and setting sail across Lake Superior to come home to Lutsen. About halfway across they ran into a terrific north-west storm and had to fight to keep a fire going to prevent the water from dousing the boiler. "I was sitting on a bench behind my father, and we couldn't see even 20 feet ahead of the boat," he remembered.

Winters were hard. Because supplies only came by boat, shipments stopped after December 1 and the ships didn't return until June. Although settlers could trek through the snow to Grand Marais, 21 miles away, chances were good supplies there were running out as well.

The season didn't prevent the Nelsons from trying to travel on the lake, however. C.A.A. and his two brothers Gust and Alfred set out one February for Two Harbors in a sailboat. Successfully delivering a load of fish, they were on their way back to Lutsen with fresh supplies when the lake froze over. Gust was lame, so the three couldn't walk the rest of the way home. They were stranded with a single trout for food. It was eleven days before the lake opened up and they could return home.

The arrival of a boat was an important occasion at Lutsen. **Day or night, the ships would blow their whistle a mile away and it was all hands "on dock"** to help unload freight and mail and help the passengers.



COW OVERBOARD!

In the early days, people and supplies came by boat. Passengers and freight boats generally "hove to" in deep water, where they were met by skiffs which carried their cargo to the dock for unloading. "We'd ship out fish and take in groceries, supplies, anything you wanted to order, even farm animals," George Nelson, Sr. recalled in a 1991 interview with the Cook County News-Herald newspaper.

"When there were animals, they'd just push them overboard and let them swim in," he went on to say. His wife, Inga, corrected him, however. **"Not the chickens. The chickens didn't swim,"** she said.

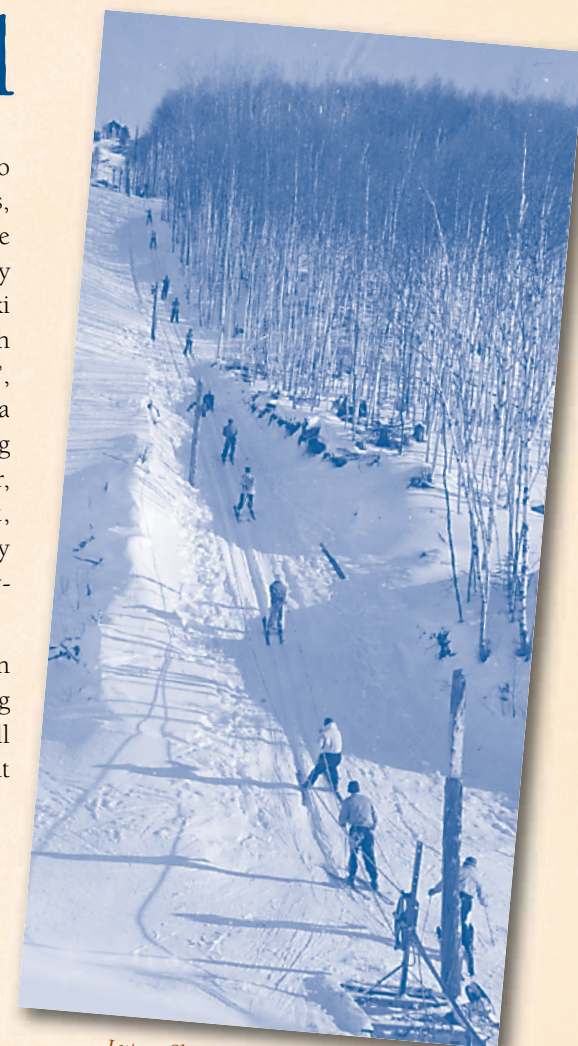
Lutsen goes Downhill

When George Nelson, Jr., the grandson of C.A.A. and Anna, returned from WWII, he looked at the Sawtooth Mountain Range with new eyes. **George Jr., had seen combat in northern Italy with the 10th Mountain Division Ski Troops, where he learned downhill skiing. He had been trained in Colorado, and had used one of the first rope tows in the United States.** Convinced that a ski business would be successful in bringing year-round traffic to the resort, George, Jr. and his father, George, Sr. began the development of the Lutsen Mountain Ski Area.

In 1945, The Nelsons winterized the original lodge building to prepare for year-round business. They hired two

lumberjack brothers for \$500 to clear two steep hills with hand axes and saws, cutting the stumps at ground level. The ski runs promised to be thrilling; they had vertical drops twice as high as any ski resort in the area. Opening in 1948 with two runs, "Hari-Kari" and "Chickadee", the Lutsen Ski Area was serviced by a \$500 rope tow, powered by a hard-working Ford V-8 engine. In sub-zero weather, when the V-8 engine wouldn't start, George "Senior" would put a fresh battery on his hip and hike up the hill. Snow-making and chair lifts were added later.

The ski area was sold by the Nelson family in 1980 to Charles Skinner. Lodging development at the base of the ski hill was begun in 1982 by Ryan Development Company.



The Cindy Nelson Story

The Nelson family all became accomplished skiers. All five of George, Jr.'s children competed from an early age. One of his daughters, Cindy gained national fame as a downhill ski racer.

Cindy was trained at Lutsen by her father, George Nelson, Jr., who was the nineteenth person to be certified by the Southern

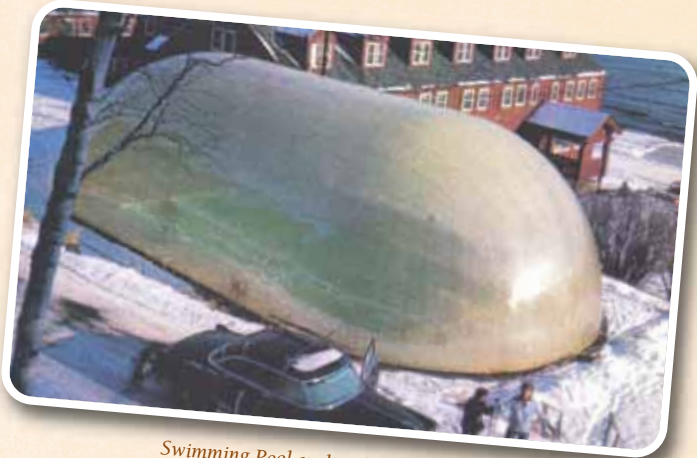
Rocky Mountain Division of Ski Instructors, and who served in the Armed Forces 10th Mountain Division. Cindy's later training at Lutsen came from Heli Schaller, the prestigious Austrian ski coach. Cindy Nelson competed in three Olympics and earned a Bronze Medal in 1976 at the Winter Olympics in Innsbruck, competing in the women's downhill.

In 1982 she won her Silver Medal in the World Championships in Austria. Over the course of her career, she won several World Cup races. She retired from the U.S. Ski Team at the age of 30, and now resides in Vail, Colorado.



First Things First

- 1881 C.A.A. Nelson first visits Lutsen.
- 1885 Minnesota's first resort established shortly after C.A.A. and Anna Nelson homesteaded.
- 1918 First hydroelectric generating plant on the North Shore is built at Lutsen. Visitors can still see the dam, flume and generator building from the upper footbridge which crosses the Poplar River.
- 1948 First ski resort in Minnesota.
- 1955 First swimming pool in the world to be enclosed in a Mylar bubble, manufactured by Dupont.
- 1960 First private stocked stream-fishing without man-made barriers. The natural waterfalls on both ends of the stocked section limit the travel of the trout.
- 1965 First resort on-sale liquor license (obtained simultaneously with another Minnesota ski resort).
- 1968 First townhouse development for sale and rent in a northern Minnesota resort area.
- 1977 First Alpine Slide in Minnesota opens at Lutsen Mountain.
- 1998 Named "Favorite Family Resort" by readers of *Minnesota Monthly Magazine*.
- 2005 Awarded "Property of the Year" by *Minnesota Innkeepers Association*



Swimming Pool enclosed in Mylar Bubble



Opener of the Alpine Slide

WHY A POLAR BEAR?

Down the hall and before the restrooms you will see a Polar Bear. During the 1960's George Sr. and Inga took a trip to Alaska, hired a guide and bagged this bear. A memento of this size is not suitable for your average living room, especially when you have a lodge like Lutsen Resort to put it in. That's why.



Building on the Legacy

George Nelson, Jr. began to develop and build Lutsen Sea Villa Townhomes on Lake Superior in 1968. Completed by 1974, these 57 townhomes remain under Lutsen Resort management. In 1977, the Nelson family built the Alpine Slide at Lutsen Mountains. In 1988, George Nelson, Jr. donated 356 acres of land to Cook County to facilitate the development of the area's new 18-hole golf course, Superior National at Lutsen. George and Patty Nelson sold the lodge and resort in 1989. The current owners/managers include husband and wife Scott Harrison and Nancy Burns, both of whom are fourth generation residents of Minnesota, and, Diane Loh, the grandniece of Inga Nelson. As owners, we remain dedicated to preserving the heritage of Lutsen

Resort. We respect Lutsen's unique environment and strive to maintain high guest-services standards. Among our continued efforts are the preservation and enhancement of food, beverage, lodging and recreational experiences for our guests. We have been instrumental in the development of the Superior National Golf Course, the development of the guest service and recreation building addition to the Sea Villas, and have added the distinctive, hand-crafted Log Cabins, the Poplar River Condominiums and Cliffhouse Townhomes to the Resort. We are committed to environmental stewardship of the Resort and the broader community through Resort initiatives and board membership on a variety of local, state and regional environmental organizations.

Nancy Burns and Scott Harrison

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN

1863	C.A.A. Nelson born in Norkoping, Ostergotland, Sweden	1948	"Old 20" guest building near Cliff House destroyed by fire
1881	C.A.A. came to America	1948	First fire destroyed original Lodge
1883 & 1884	C.A.A. is captain of the A. Booth Packing Company fishing tug Evaston	1948	Ski hill opened
1885	Papers filed for homestead	1949	First Lundie lodge opened
1886	C.A.A. settled on North Shore and first guests stayed at the Nelson home	1950	Celebrated opening & George & Inga's 30th Wedding Anniversary simultaneously
1887	C.A.A.'s wife, Anna, and son, Carl, moved to Lutsen	1951	Second fire destroyed Lundie lodge
1888	C.A.A.'s parents and two brothers arrived from Sweden	1952	Second Lundie lodge opened
1890	Lutsen named and post office opened	1955	Dupont's Mylar Bubble built over pool, the first of its kind in the world
1893	C.A.A. built house that had hotel rooms on the second floor and became a destination for sportsmen and those seeking relief from hayfever & tuberculosis.	1959	Poma lift installed on Bridge Run
1893	"Lutzen Items" article in Cook County Herald	1960	Poplar river stocked for sport fishing
1894	Petition for School District No. 4 ("Birch Room" of resort)	1964	Snowmaking started
1896	School built at top of hill behind resort	1964	First chair lift installed on Ullr Mountain
1899	George Nelson Sr. born in a cabin at the mouth of the Poplar River.	1964	Chalet built at ski area
1899	Inga Toftey born in Halsinoy, Norway	1965	George Sr. and Inga retired turning the business over to son George Jr.
1887 - 1901	Steamship Dixon ran supplies up the shore and to Lutsen Resort	1967	Conference room added to Lodge
1902 - 1910	Steamship America ran supplies up shore and to Lutsen Resort	1968	Sea Villa Townhome development started by George Jr.
1914	Road travel between Tofte, Lutsen and Grand Marais started	1971	George III (Nibbs), Becky, Cindy, Terri and Traci, children of George Jr. and Patti are on the National Junior Ski team
1914	George Sr. and Inga met blueberry picking	1972	Cindy named to U.S. Olympic downhill ski team at 16 years old
1918	Road opened from Duluth	1976	Cindy Nelson wins Bronze Medal at Innsbruck
1918	Electricity introduced to resort via water powered electrical plant on river. The generator was operational until 1941 - the building still stands	1977	Alpine slide opened
1920	George and Inga married	1980	Ski area separated from resort and sold to Charles Skinner
1920's	Lobby, dining room for 150 and 30 rooms added to Lodge	1980	Cindy Nelson wins Silver Medal at Lake Placid in World Cup competition
1922	Norrine, daughter of George Sr. and Inga, born	1982	Cindy Nelson wins Silver Medal at World Championships
1925	George Jr. born	1984	Cindy Nelson competed in Olympics
1928	Cliff House built (Lutsen could now accommodate up to 225 people total throughout resort including the "Old 20" building)	1985	Cindy Nelson retires from U.S. ski team
1930	First Poplar River bridge (upper) built, followed by 2nd bridge (lower) in the late 1950's	1988	Resort sold. Current owners include: Scott Harrison of Duluth and Grandniece of Inga, General Manager Diane Loh
1945	Lodge winterized to prepare for winter business	1992	George and Inga moved out of 3rd floor apartment to Grand Marais
1946	George Jr., part of the 10th Mountain Division Ski Troops, returned from WWII	1993 - 2000	Lutsen Resort Lakeside Log Homes developed
1948	Anna Nelson died, C.A.A. died 16 days later	1993	George Sr. died
		1994	Inga died
		1997	Sea Villa Townhome guest services building opened
		1998	Poplar River Condominiums developed
		1998	Sea Villa Townhome recreational building opened
		2005	Cliffhouse Townhomes developed

We dedicate this history book to the Nelson Family for their courage, strength and ability to recognize the needs of the visitor. We hope your visit here is enjoyable!



A Stones throw from the Resort

Lake Superior

Lake Superior is the largest of the five Great Lakes.

It is the largest freshwater lake in the world with a surface area of 31,820 square miles. Lake Baikal, in Russia, while smaller in size, actually has twice the water volume. Lake Superior is 602 feet above sea level.

At Lutsen the lakeshore runs in a northeasterly direction. Guests look southeast when they face the lake.

The Lake is **1300 miles around, 383 miles long and 160 miles wide** and registers its **deepest point at 1333 feet.**

The average temperature of the water is **40°F year-round.**

30 to 40 foot waves have been recorded.

The Lake has a recorded number of **350 shipwrecks** and has **claimed more than 1000 lives.**

It is rare for Lake Superior to freeze over entirely. Usually just sections freeze, but it does freeze over occasionally.

The last time it **totally froze over was 1993.**

“Lakers” & “Salties”



You will see different types of boats on the lake: **sport fishing, commercial fishing and commercial shipping.** Most of the ships are coming and going from Duluth/Superior harbor, although a few are going to Taconite Harbor, Silver Bay or Two Harbors. Many foreign ships (**salties**) come from overseas and down the through the Great Lakes.

Other ships are traveling primarily within the Great Lakes (**lakers**).

Ships usually come in empty (with water as ballast) and leave with cargo.

The three primary cargos shipped out of the region are **iron ore**, usually taconite (50%), **coal** (30%) and **grain** (10%).

Most of these products come to Duluth/Superior by rail or truck.

The ships are huge, ranging in length from **500 feet to 1000 feet.** as many as 1000 vessels per year use the Duluth/Superior port.

30 to 40 below Zero

The average snowfall each year is **105 inches.** There is generally snow on the ground by Thanksgiving.

The average Winter temperature is around 21°F November through March.

The average Summer temperature is approximately 61°F May through September.

Temperatures can get down to 30° to 40°F below zero.



Mountains in Minnesota

The rough hills that run along the Lake are the **Sawtooth Mountain Range.**

They are the remnants of ancient volcanoes that erupted a billion years ago.



Superior National Forest

The forests that lie inland from Lake Superior are **almost all public land.** The largest, Superior National Forest, contains **3 million acres** and **2100 lakes.** Less than 10% of the land in Cook County is privately owned.

Poplar River

The Poplar River runs into Lake Superior by the lodge. It comes from the Superior National Forest, runs through the ski area and down through the golf course to the lake below the lodge. There is good fishing at the mouth of the river.

The biggest fish ever caught here was a **chinook salmon weighing in at 33 lbs., 40 oz.**

It was caught in September 1989 and is still tied for the state record.

