

Point Hope Names Village Streets After Traditions

The village of Point Hope in the far northwestern Alaska has established a street system and named the streets after traditions and individuals famous in Point Hope.

Although the names of the streets will be formidable tongue-twisters for white people to pronounce, the villagers do not care whether they are or not.

The village officials under the leadership of the young Mayor Henry Attungana authorized the creation of the streets. Attungana is 32 years old and is believed to be the youngest mayor the village ever had.

"We wanted to always remember the good things we had long ago and not so long ago," stated Henry Attungana in Fairbanks.

The street names are as follows:

—Oungasiksikaaq Street; a name commemorating the south whaling fraternity of the village.

—Qaqmaqtuuq Street: commemorating the north whaling fraternity.

—Pisiktaagvik Street: a name that commemorates the famous sharpshooting or target shooting area.

—Goodman Street: named after the longtime Episcopal minister at Point Hope, the late Archdeacon Goodman.

—Attungowruk Street: commemorating the most famous leader Point Hope ever had, Chief Attungowruk.

Chief Attungowruk, in his time, was loved and feared. His direct descendants lay Arctic tundra flowers on his grave in summertime. He is a legend who is becoming more revered as time passes.

—Posun Street: commemorating a good and kind man who benefited the village.

—Dr. Driggs Street: named

after the first Episcopal missionary at Point Hope, the late Dr. John Driggs.

—Oangnak Street: commemorating the southeast of Point Hope where hunters scanned the skies for weather information.

—Tulungigruk Street: named after the legendary hunter who harpooned nuvuk, or The Point, of Point Hope as it rose out of the sea.

—Kuvuk Street: commemorating the famous elongated

slough that ran through the villages east and west. The slough is

now being filled with gravel as a sanitation measure.