

Port Lions Residents Get Patents on Land

The Alaskan Native villagers of Port Lions on Kodiak Island now own the land they live on. Forty-four individual patents have been awarded following a recent ruling from the state Attorney General's office.

Port Lions villagers were forced to relocate after the 1964 earthquake and tidal wave almost completely destroyed their original village of Afognak.

Relocation was on state selected land on which

tentative approval had been granted by the federal government. The Attorney General's ruling has given the state the legal go-ahead to pass title to these forty-four Port Lions individuals.

Both the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the state Division of Lands have been striving toward this approval for several years.

The old village of Afognak was first settled by employees of the Russian American Company.

The villagers have always made their living from fishing. In seeking a new town-site they chose Settlers Cove, fifteen miles away on Kodiak Island.

The cove has a fine harbor, good water and timber, room for expansion, and is only a few miles from a newly built airstrip. Construction, aided by help from many government and private interests, was supervised by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The name Port Lions was chosen by the community to honor the District 49 Lions Disaster Committee which spearheaded the relocation move.