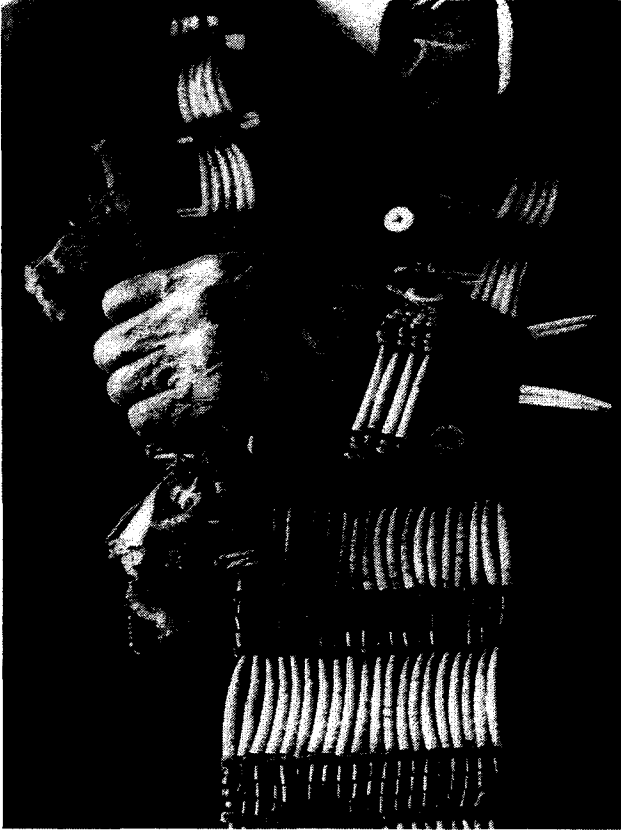


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## Shem Pete's Alaska

The Territory of the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina  
(second edition)

by James Kari and James A. Fall  
Principal contributor Shem Pete  
Foreword by William Bright

Shem Pete (1896-1989), the colorful and brilliant raconteur from Susitna Station, Alaska left a rich legacy of knowledge about the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina world. Shem was one of the most versatile storytellers and historians in twentieth century Alaska. His lifetime travel map of approximately 13,500 sq. miles is one of the largest ever documented in this degree of detail anywhere in the world.

This expanded edition of the 1987 book presents 968 named places in sixteen drainage-based chapters. The names form a reconstructed composite place name network from the vantage points of the life experiences of Shem Pete and other Dena'ina and Ahtna speakers. The place names are annotated with comments and stories by Shem Pete and 45 other speakers,

and also by historic references, vignettes, numerous photographs, a selection of historic maps, and shaded -relief place name maps. In the Introduction the authors provide perspective on Dena'ina language and culture, and a summary of Dena'ina geographic knowledge and place name research methodology.

The book is a significant contribution to Athabascan ethnography and linguistics, Native American ethnogeography, the history of Alaska, and onomastics, and it will be the basic reference work on the Dena'ina people of Upper Cook Inlet.

*"Shem Pete had a strong sense of adventure and curiosity about the world. Over the years with his remarkable memory he became a rich treasure of knowledge about the Dena'ina world and values. He is an inspiration to all who seek the rewarding journey of a proud Dena'ina man."* — Lydia L. Hays, October 7, 1989, former Vice-President, CIRI.

*"Shem Pete's Alaska is a treasure of personal connectedness to the beautiful land--the source of sustenance to the Upper Cook Inlet Dena'ina. In the stories of the place names you will find the joy of remembrance in every knoll and waterway."* — Arliss Sturgulewski, former Alaska State Senator, October 18, 2001.

*"Shem Pete's experience and wisdom as an elder of the Dena'ina Athabascan Indians shine through this work like the sun—as do the skill and devotion of James Kari, James Fall, and the other Dena'ina and Anglo-American people who contributed to making the book a reality... We have a volume that offers a vivid picture of Native Alaskan culture, history, geography, and language, with added glimpses of oral literature and music. It puts us there... All Native American peoples—indeed, all traditional communities in the world—would be fortunate and proud to have this kind of record of their life and culture."* — from the Foreword by William Bright, Editor, *Native American Place Names of the United States*, University of Colorado, Boulder, November, 2001.

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