

Sealaska returns 4, elects 2 new directors

Two new members were elected to the board of directors of the Sealaska Corp. last week but an election bid by a former board chairman and president ended before the election occurred when John Borbridge Jr., withdrew his name from the running.

Borbridge, who served as Sealaska chairman and president until his defeat in 1976, had fought for election but withdrew his name from candidacy before the election. He vowed to seek election at the next annual shareholders meeting.

Elected to the board for the first time were Jim Edenso Jr., of Juneau and Charles Carlson of Sitka. Edenso is a vice president with the consulting firm of Earl R. Combs Inc. He has served as special assistant to the governor and was on the board of trustees of the Trans Alaska Oil Pipeline.

Carlson is a commercial fisherman from Sitka.

Re-elected to terms on the board are Roger Lang of Anchorage who works with the Alaska Federation of Natives, Judson L. Brown, from Seattle, a retired longshoreman and former

chairman of Sealaska, Gilbert Gunderson of Juneau who works as a fisherman and serves on the Ocean Beauty Seafoods Board of Directors; and Raymond Demmert, from Ketchikan who works with a construction firm and is a member of Sealaska's Alaska Brick Co.

Edenso had sought election to the board on a platform of increasing the number of Sealaska shareholders in management positions with the corporation and increasing the amount of return on Sealaska investments.

Defeated in their re-election

bids were Sam Demmert, a member of the corporation's fisheries committee. He lives in Yakutat. Also defeated was Murlin Everson from Juneau who is vice president for operations of the Gold Belt Shareholders Committee.

The board election came on the heels of two stunning business victories on the part of the Sealaska Board.

The corporation declared record earnings last year in all phases of Sealaska business and, in doing, was named to the Fortune magazine list of top 1,000

businesses in the nation.

The corporation reported assets of \$280.6 million with 1980 sales of \$138 million, a dramatic increase over 1979 sales of \$14 million.

Those figures brought a loud cheer to the crowd of 400 corporation shareholders who attended the annual meeting at the Sheldon Jackson College in Sitka.

The meeting was preceeded on the night before by a tribal dance and a Tribute to Elders

(Continued on Page Sixteen)

Sealaska meeting included tribute to elders

(Continued from Page One)

ceremony in which older Indians spoke of their youth and the ways they have had to compensate to the coming of the white man to their territory.

Gilbert Gunderson, who was elected to the board the next day, spoke of sitting on the Indian side of the aisle at the movie houses when he was a boy.

Although his father was Scandinavian, his mother was Tlingit and "It never occurred to me to sit on their side. I knew where I belonged.

Another elder, Frank Peratrovich, spoke of being turned away at the voting polls because of his background.

Although the shareholders meeting reflected the success of the corporation, it did not go without dissent, mostly led by

Borbridge who unsuccessfully sought to regain the seat on the board he lost in 1976. He questioned the \$128,250 salary given to Sealaska President Michael H. Chittick. Chittick's rent free house which was built at a cost of \$391,000 and a \$35,000 bonus also were criticized.

Other concerns of a broader nature voiced at the meeting were the loss of the Tlingit and Haida languages, the potential

withdrawal of government social services and what will replace them, and the amount of Sealaska support for shareholder businesses.

Sealaska presented its first Heritage Foundation Scholarship to Katherine Eldemar of Juneau for her outstanding high school work. She will receive \$5,000.