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Alaska 1900

MIKE GRAVEL BESTS GRUENING



Mike Gravel battles odds to best incumbent Sen. Ernest Gruening in primary.



Old War Horse, Gruening, finally defeated in a bitter primary fight.

Mike Gravel Captures Stunning Victory Over Ernest Gruening

Mike Gravel, benefitting from his mistakes in his political campaign two years ago, won the primary election over his formidable opponent, Senator Ernest Gruening, last Tuesday.

Gravel's stunning win nominated him to oppose the Anchorage banker, Elmer Rasmuson, who squeaked by his able opponent, State Rep. Ted Stevens, for the right to contest for the U.S. Senate.

Mike Rowan, who helped steer Gravel's campaign out of his office in Anchorage and who is already getting ready for

the general election on Nov. 5, had this to say.

"I think the people got excited by the campaign itself. They just responded to it largely because it was different."

Looking ahead to the general election campaign, Rowan said, "We will probably be out-spent. Mike (Gravel) is going to travel the bush. We have found something important—the door to door campaigning. Rita (Mrs. Gravel) knows this, too."

Mike Gravel and his wife, Rita, are now in Bozeman, (Continued on page 6)



Anchorage banker, Elmer Rasmuson, wins Republican nomination for U. S. Senate.



Incumbent Rep. Howard Pollock ran unopposed and will face Nick Begich in general election.



Democrat Nick Begich fought way to oppose Congressman Howard W. Pollock.

Gravel in Stunning Primary Win..

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Montana visiting Mrs. Gravel's parents and where their two children had been visiting during their parent's hard campaign.

Sen. Ernest Gruening has been tenacious even though Gravel has more than 2,000 votes over him. Gruening has refused to concede so far pinning his hopes on the outcome of the absentee votes.

Political observers, however, place little hope that Gruening will overtake Gravel when the tallies are counted today. Absentee votes have been estimated at 3,500.

Sen. Gruening has served Alaska for 30 years and distinguished himself during that long service as territorial governor and for the last nine and a half years as U.S. senator for Alaska.

Elmer Rasmuson, who campaigned on the "people to people" basis, covered the whole state "including villages where politicians had never been before." His campaign, in many ways, paralleled that of Mike Gravel.

Two years ago, Mike Gravel ran a hard campaign in the primary election against the then incumbent Congressman

Ralph Rivers for the U.S. House of Representatives but was narrowly beaten.

That campaign acquainted Gravel with the outlying area people throughout the North and the cordiality established then might have carried him in last Tuesday's primary election.

In another intense primary election campaign, State Sen. Nick Begich won over his fellow Democrats, John Rader and Don Wright, for the right to contest the incumbent Republican, Congressman Howard W. Pollock whom Begich will face in the general election.

John Rader, former and first attorney general of the new State of Alaska, also campaigned hard and in the process hooked his hopes to Sen. Eugene McCarthy who lost his bid for presidential nomination to Vice

President Hubert H. Humphrey, by endorsing McCarthy who in turn endorsed Rader.

Don Wright, of Athabaskan extraction born in Nenana, made his bid for U.S. House of Representatives but his effort fell far short. Although an able man, his lack of political background probably restricted his effectiveness.

Wright is first vice president of the Alaska Federation of Natives and president of the Cook Inlet Native Association. He is also an area vice president for the National Congress of American Indians.

The frontrunners for the major public offices, as well as the state offices, are on an uneasy pause following the primary but will soon hit the trail for the payoff on November 5 general election.