

Roy Madsen Superior Court Judge

KODIAK—Roy Madsen was installed as a superior court judge in Kodiak in a formal ceremony held in the Elks Lodge in Kodiak on Oct. 29. The oath of office was administered by Chief Justice Robert Boochever.

Madsen, who was appointed to the superior court by Gov. Jay Hammond in September, is one-quarter Aleut and can also trace descent from the original Russian settlers in Alaska. He has 22 years experience as a lawyer, 13 in Kodiak.

He was born in Kanatak on the Alaska Peninsula, across Shelikof Straits from Kodiak, in 1923. He moved to Kodiak with his father in 1927 following the death of his mother.

At age 11 he began assisting his father in the guide business and considered going into the guide business himself. Following graduation from Kodiak High School in 1941 he entered Oregon State College studying fish and game management. He left to join the U.S. Navy in 1943 and served for 46 months during World War II as a navigator on a patrol torpedo boat in the South Pacific.

Madsen returned to Kodiak following the war and worked as a guide with his father during the spring and fall months, fished commercially in Bristol Bay during the summer, and worked in a store in Kodiak in the winter. He began taking correspondence courses in law because he found the subject interesting, and left Kodiak in 1949 to attend the Northwestern College of Law in Oregon.

He graduated in 1953 and was admitted to the bar in Oregon the same year. In 1955 he was appointed as a deputy district attorney for Clackamas County in Oregon City, a position he held for five years. He then went into private practice in Oregon but returned to Kodiak in 1961.

He had to re-establish his residency before being admitted to the practice of law in Alaska in 1962. He opened a law office in Kodiak that year and has maintained his practice in Kodiak since then.

He became city attorney for the City of Kodiak in 1962 and held that position until earlier this year. In 1964 he also became borough attorney for the Kodiak Island Borough. He served as the attorney for the REA and for the cities of Old Harbor, Ouzinkie and Port Lions.

Madsen was active in Native affairs prior to the enactment of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and following enactment he became corporate counsel for the Kodiak Regional Corp. He incorporated all of the villages on the island under the provisions of the settlement act.

Madsen also served on the board of directors of the National Bank of Alaska and on the Board of Regents of the University of Alaska.

He was chairman of the Kodiak Community College Advisory Board and a member of the Board of Directors of the Kodiak Area Native Association, twice serving as vice-president of that association. He was a member of the University of Alaska Task Force for Rural

Education and served on the Alaska Command Civilian Advisory Board.

He has been president of the Kodiak Rotary Club, the Navy League and the Parent-Teacher Association.

For those who have seen performances of "Cry of the Wild Ram" that has been held on Kodiak Island, he played the role of the Indian chief, "Chief Storyteller."

For several years Madsen has urged the assignment of a full-time superior court judge in Kodiak. With his appointment, he is the first full-time resident superior court judge on Kodiak. Other judges have been assigned to Kodiak in the past, but their responsibilities were divided between Kodiak and

other court locations. This year the legislature authorized the establishment of a superior court in Kodiak.

Madsen has been interested in the problems of Bush Justice and attended the 1970 Bush Justice Conference at Alyeska. He said that while he will be responsible for hearing district court matters as well as superior court cases in Kodiak, he intends also to provide judicial services on a regular basis to the Bristol Bay area and part of the Alaska Peninsula.