

ST. PAUL ISLAND LEADER ED D'AMERQUING

Merculieff Succumbs to Heart Failure

An able St. Paul Island native leader, Eddie Merculieff, passed away last week on Jan. 11 on the island from heart failure. The hart seizure occurred in the evening and he was pronounced dead at 9:30 p.m.

The funeral services were conducted on Jan. 13.

Eddie was highly rated by government circles in Alaska that have worked with him.

The personnel at the Regional Solicitor's Office in Anchorage, an able man in selling of ideas, persuasive and an effective spokesman for his people.

Eddie Merculieff had been working hard persuading his people on St. Paul in ways to convert the town into a self-ruling municipality under the provisions of the Pribilof bill that was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson last year.

Eddie was only 47 years old when he died.

"I hate to see anything happen to these leaders because they are needed so badly here in Alaska," said a person from the Regional Solicitor's office in Anchorage.

Eddie followed the death of another well-known man, Hom-

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Merculieff . . .

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er Mekiana of Anaktuvik Pass who passed away on Christmas Day.

Homer was a postmaster at the time. Along with Simon Paneak, Homer Mekiana was well known to scientists who visited the area numerous times on scientific assignments.

The two men have often been consulted for their superb knowledge of animals and the Brooks Range country area.