



Mayor George N. Ahmaogak Sr.

NSB residents re-elect mayor

BARROW — In what is being hailed as a mandate, George Ahmaogak won a landslide victory in his bid for re-election as mayor of the North Slope Borough.

"The people of the North Slope have really demonstrated their confidence in me and my administration today," Ahmaogak said late Tuesday night, after the first tally of votes was in.

The unofficial results showed that Ahmaogak had won 66 percent of the vote, beating challengers Flossie Anderson and Eileen MacLean.

"It pleases me to see that our people believe in the work that we've done. They've benefitted from our programs and can see that we've turned around some of the terrible problems which only three years ago really threatened this borough," Ahmaogak said.

He pointed out that under his administration people have been put back to work.

"We've found new energy supplies and lowered the cost of heating in the villages. We've channeled millions of dollars of contracts that used to go to Outside companies to local, Native owned businesses, and we've made some tough stands to protect our subsistence rights.

"Today the people spoke. They told us that it was good we did these things. They've told us they want us to finish the job we've started," he said.

Ahmaogak also said he hopes to accomplish much in his next term.

"The job's not done yet," he said. "But with this kind of confidence and support, I know that we're going to have three successful years."

With 344 absentee and questioned ballots yet to be counted, unofficial tallies showed the mayor with 913 votes, Anderson scored a distant second with 251 votes, and MacLean garnered 235 votes.

"We ran a good, clean, positive campaign," Ahmaogak said. "We didn't throw dirt at anyone. I traveled to all the villages — as I've done often for the past three years — and we had some good, lively, happy

(Continued on Page Fourteen)

• Ahmaogak praises staff

(Continued from Page One)

meetings, the kind that left everybody feeling good. We believed in what we were doing. There was no need to throw dirt at anybody."

Ahmaogak also had a lot of praise for his campaign workers. Among them were Bill Kaleak, who served as campaign chairman, and Maggie Ahmaogak, the mayor's wife, was treasurer. Long-time Ahmaogak aide Tony Kesler served as campaign manager. Bill Hess worked on publicity, and James Mutumeak speeded the construction of 75 4-foot by 8-foot signs, which still failed to supply enough to satisfy all those who wanted to have them nailed to the sides of their homes.

Campaigning in the villages with the mayor and Maggie were Joe and Alice Upicksoun, Robert and Martha Aiken, Arnold Brower Jr. and wife Jo Jo and Pat Hugo.

Additional village trips were made by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Matumeak, Mr. and Mrs. Whitem Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Leavitt, Mr. and Mrs. Gilford Mongoyak, Lucille Dobson and Delores Sikvayugak.

"I would also like to give a warm and special thanks to Edward Itta, one



of my campaign advisors, who really helped me, and to Harold Curran and Bennie Nageak. The truth is, there are scores of people I need to thank," Ahmaogak said. "Far too many to name here. On a normal day, I had as many as 50 people out campaigning for me. They all know who they are. They all have my deepest thanks."

Campaign manager Kesler agreed, and said the campaign was well organized. He also praised Ahmaogak.

"The people like this mayor. He's done a good job," he said.

Arnold Brower Jr. said he was particularly pleased with the margin of victory.

"What we have here is a mandate," he said. "The people have spoken."