

First female attorney general

Cowper appoints 3 to state positions

Gov. Steve Cowper has made several appointments recently, including the first female attorney general, long-time Fairbanks lawyer Grace Schaible.

Cowper also appointed former Ketchikan legislator Oral Freeman to the Alaska Permanent Fund Board of Trustees and Garrey Peska of Juneau to head up the state Department of Administration.

Schaible is currently a member of the University of Alaska Board of Regents. Since 1959, she has been an attorney in Fairbanks, where she is a partner in the firm of Schaible, Staley, DeLisio and Cook. Her legal work has included corporate counsel for the Arctic Slope Regional Corp., city attorney for Fairbanks and experience in business and probate law.

In his new post as Department

of Administration commissioner Peska will administer 1,100 employees and oversee much of the business of state government, including personnel, labor relations, leasing of state facilities, purchasing and supply and data processing. The department, the state's third largest agency, also manages the state's telecommunications programs, Pioneers Homes, the Longevity Bonus Program and the Municipal Grants program.

Peska is a certified public accountant with more than 10 years experience in the state budget process.

He moved to Alaska in 1972 to join the staff of the Division of Legislative Audit, of which he became head in 1974. Most recently, he worked as an aide to the House Finance Committee. He also has worked for the

Calista Regional Corp., Shee-Atika and Kootznوو.

Freeman replaces Anchorage banker Arnie Espe, who resigned the the six-member Permanent Fund Board of Trustees last month. Freeman's appointment runs until July 1, 1989.

Freeman, who owns and operates a boat and motor repair shop in Ketchikan, served six terms in the state House. He currently is serving as chairman of Cowper's Budget Transition Committee.

Freeman's appointment still leaves two vacancies on the board. By state law, two state commissioners serve on the board, the Revenue commissioner and one designated by the governor. Newly appointed Revenue Commissioner Hugh Malone will remain on the board, but his position as a public member is vacant.