

HENSLEY TAKES NORTHWEST; GRAVEL NARROWLY BEATEN

Egan and Bartlett Returned to Seats In Landslide Victory

By TIM BRADNER

Primary election results this week held some surprises, some disappointments, and some heart-warming victories for Alaska's Native people.

For the first time politically-aware village people organized themselves into associations and actively pushed candidates they felt best for them in all offices:

Some of the victories of Native candidates were well-earned.

William Hensley, running for the house from the Northwest's District 17, was well ahead of his closest competitors in the district's Democratic primary.

At press time, with nearly all returns from villages in, Hensley had pulled 454 votes. His closest competitor was Lee Stahell, A Kotzebue bush pilot, with 286 votes.

Jake Stalker, the incumbent in the house seat, polled only 114 and was fourth in line.

Robert Newlin of Noorvik pulled 52 votes.

John Nusunginya, Barrow man who was expected to give Hensley a real run for his money, turned up third

with 259.

Disappointment

Rural people lost "the big one," however.

Mike Gravel, state House Speaker running for Congress against Ralph Rivers, lost by a narrow margin.

(Editor's Note: Lack of space will not permit us to present complete rural election totals. Next week we hope to print a cross-sectioned village-by-village chart of complete election polling for our readers.)

Rivers won by roughly 1,000 votes and will face Republican Howard Pollock of Anchorage in the November general election.

The House Speaker's support in the bush was solid in most areas, sporadic in

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Takes Northwest . . .

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others.

At Quinhagak, in the Bethel area, Gravel polled 78 votes to River's five. At Tununak, he got 68 to his opponent's 14.

At Chefomak, he beat Rivers 45 to 1.

In the combined Northwest vote, he beat his opponent almost 2 to 1. Gravel polled 1668 votes to Rivers' 883.

The bush vote, however, was not enough to offset heavy losses in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Sitka, Cordova and other, smaller, cities.

Surprisingly, some small villages went for Rivers. Rivers polled 12 in Venetie to Gravel's 4. Holy Cross also went for Rivers, 35 to 16.

Many Native associations in the state actively backed Gravel in his bid for Congress. They disliked Rivers because of his stand on Native Land issues.

Sam Taalak, of the Arctic Slope Native Association in Barrow, told the Tundra Times this morning members of the group were "very disappointed" in the election results.

Egan, Bartlett

Gov. William Egan and Sen. E.L. (Bob) Bartlett both were clear victors in the primary. Egan polled well ahead of his opponent, Anchorage attorney Wendell Kay, and Bartlett easily outdistanced others running for his seat in almost every precinct in Alaska.

Both men had heavy bush support. Bartlett was actively pushed by Native groups because of his work on behalf of Alaska's Natives—principally the Native housing bill.

Egan was also endorsed by Native associations.

Hopson Beaten

Under reapportionment northwest Alaska's State senate seats were reduced to one, and two veteran legislators faced each other in the Democratic primary—Sen. Eben Hopson of Barrow and Sen. R.R. (Bob) Blodgett of Teller.

Under the old senate-seat distribution, both men were powerful members of the "ice bloc" of western and northwest legislators.

Blodgett defeated Hopson 1169 to 871 at latest count. He will face Jerry Crow, Barrow Republican running unopposed in the primary, this November.

Fairbanks

Bush-supported House candidates in Fairbanks did well.

Two Republicans with strong rural support in District 16, Donald Young of Fort Yukon and Jules Wright of Fairbanks, will face the Democrats in the November general election.

Wright polled 1440 and Young got 1851.

Among the Democrats, Mike Bradner, well known in rural villages, polled 2093.

Much of Bradner's support came from villages where he was known for his work with the NYC program or his earlier years as a mate on a Yukon towboat, the M.V. Tanana.

District 15

In the Nenana-Yukon district, two key Native candidates in the House race were defeated. Alfred Ketzler and John Sackett, both Republicans, were defeated.

Norb Skinner of Clear was re-elected on the Democratic side.