

# CANDIDATES AROUND ALASKA TOSS HATS

With primary elections for state and federal offices less than five months away, candidates around Alaska are tossing their hats in the ring to gear up for one of the most important elections in the state's history.

Beginning construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, decision on a gas pipeline, settlement of the Native land claims, formation of the Native corporations and nearing federal action to withdraw 83 million Alaskan acres combine to make 1974 the start of a new era in Alaska.

At stake are the vital governor's and lieutenant governor's seats, one U.S. seat, the state's only U.S. House of Representatives post and numerous Senate and House seats on the state level.

Following are thumbnail sketches of some of the candidates who have already announced their decisions to run:

## Mitch Demientieff Hurls Hat

Mitch Demientieff, 21, former president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference, has filed for the Democratic nomination as a candidate for the House of Representatives, District 19.

Demientieff headed TCC in 1973-74 and is making his first run for state office. The Nenana resident, known for his subsistence life style, is concerned about education, justice and

ation of Natives.

Demientieff served one year as a Nenana city councilman and two years as village chief. He is also chairman of the board of directors for the Nenana Village Corporation.

## Lowell Thomas Seeks State LTC.

Sen. Lowell Thomas Jr., 50, majority leader of the Senate, is seeking the nomination as the Republican candidate for lieutenant governor.

A six-year member of the Senate's health, education and social services committee,



Lowell Thomas

... hitching with Hammond

Thomas favors decentralization of the state-operated schools in rural areas and feels strongly that village people should be given the opportunity to run their own schools with some control over curriculum.

Thomas gained insight into Native needs, he said, by flying over the years around the Arctic Coast and the Interior with Episcopal Bishop William Gordon. "I think I know what the Native problems are," he said.

The Senator, who also served six years on the resources committee of the Senate, wants to team up with Jay Hammond, candidate for governor. "We see eye-to-eye and will work well together," said Thomas.

The candidate first came to Alaska in the 1940s as a member of a mountaineering expedition, "got the bug" and returned in 1960 to stay. He spent three years in the Air Force, graduated from Dartmouth College and later attended the school of international affairs at Princeton. Thomas' daughter is a freshman at Dartmouth and on the ski team, his son is in high school and his wife has authored three books.

"The job of lieutenant governor depends on who the governor is," said Thomas. "I think with Jay Hammond we can make it a meaningful one."

## Jo Miller Also Wants LTC

State Rep. Jo Ann Miller (R-Anchorage), 43, is seeking the Republican nomination as the party's candidate for lieutenant governor.

In an open letter to Alaskan Natives, Miller writes: "The state and federal government have for too long avoided the real needs of the Native people."

Instead of "catch up" governmental services, Miller advocates "long range planning, which provides state aid that would avail the Native to technical assistance for programs that he, the Native, designates should be implemented."

While the 12 Native regional

corporations are providing leadership to the "Native block,"



Jo Ann Miller

... eyeing No. 2 post

Miller says the people within the corporations must be given the opportunity to develop their economic independence, which will lead to "more individual independence through the use of technical assistance."

Born in Benton, Ark., Miller made Anchorage her home in 1959. She and her husband, Robert, and three children homesteaded in the Potter area, south of Anchorage.

Besides serving in the State House of Representatives, she is employed by the Penney Co. in a regional management position.

She is vice chairman of the commerce committee and a member of the resources and state affairs committee.

## Seeking Governorship

Donn Hopkins, 50, of Fairbanks is seeking the Republican nomination of that party's candidate for governor.

The former North Star Borough planning director an-



Donn Hopkins

... always a candidate

nounced his candidacy well ahead of time — on Nov. 3, 1973 — and joins Walter J. Hickel, Keith Miller and Jay Hammond in the GOP quest for the state's highest office.

Hopkins previously ran unsuccessfully twice for a seat in the State House of Representatives and once for chairman of the North Star Borough, also without success.

The candidate came to Alaska in 1963 and said he saw here a chance for Alaskans to "create a truly great civilization — perhaps greater than any other." But, he saw a need for "government by and for the people" and social and economic freedom for everyone.

Hopkins feels that much waste of natural and human resources impede progress to-

ward the civilization he envisions for Alaska. As governor he would eliminate such waste, he says.

The Fairbanksan is known for a small log cabin community he built west of the city on the Chena Pump Road. He served 2½ years as director of planning and research for the Alaska State Department of Economic De-

velopment and Planning and also did some planning work for Nenana.

Hopkins was born in California and attended schools in Oregon. He is a graduate of California Institute of Technology (BA Degree) and in 1956 earned a Master's Degree in city planning from the University of California.

## New State Started Out Democratically Hefty

FAIRBANKS — In the election of 1958, Alaskans voted overwhelmingly for Democratic party candidates, and the new state began its political career with all the appearances of a one-party state.

Since 1958, however, the Republican and Democratic parties in Alaska have become increasingly competitive, and the balance has recently tipped in favor of the Republicans.

These and other voting trends in Alaska since statehood are analyzed in a new publication of the University of Alaska's Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research, "An Electoral Profile of Alaska: Interparty Competition Between 1958 and 1972." Authors are Thomas A. Morehouse and Gordon S. Harrison.

Basing their analysis on district-level voting returns from every regular election between 1958 and 1972, the authors show, among other things:

— Anchorage and Fairbanks

are more Republican than both the state as a whole and their respective regions.

— Smaller towns of 1,000 or more, Native and non-Native, are more Democratic than both the state as a whole and their respective regions.

— Democrats receive their largest percentage electoral majorities in the Bethel, Wade Hampton, Barrow, Kotzebue, and other "bush" election districts.

— Republicans find their greatest strength in Anchorage, several smaller districts in the southcentral region, most notably in the Palmer-Wasilla district, and Fairbanks.

— Alaskans show greater Republican preference in voting for President than in voting for Alaska statewide offices.

Copies of "An Electoral Profile of Alaska" may be obtained for \$2 from the editor, Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

## Kellogg Projects Would Aid Villages

The Kellogg Project offers to aid regional and village corporations, both profit and non-profit, in obtaining training in the regional centers in the following areas:

— Natural resource management and development, including land use planning

— Operation of village and municipal governments

— The roles of policy boards and elected officials

— The roles of management and operational personnel in profit and non-profit organizations, including cooperatives

— Financial planning, capital management, banking, and book-keeping

— How to use the political process, communications and education to achieve your goals.

Details concerning location, subjects, tuition and credit or non-credit is subject to negotiation with the university.

The Kellogg Project is a joint

effort of the University of Alaska and The Alaska Native Foundation. Offices are in the foundation's headquarters at 515 D Anchorage, Alaska 99501. For more information, contact Lisa Rudd at that address. The telephone number is 274-5638.

## Spring Bears

Spring bear hunts are now in progress in many areas, and in respect to this, Commissioner of Public Safety Pat Wellington reminds hunters that a number of regulations apply to the taking of bear.

These include: No person may possess, transport, or export from the state, brown, grizzly, or black bear (in units 1-7, 11, and 13-16) unless the skin and skull have been sealed.

The taking of cubs or females accompanied by cubs is prohibited.

## Benefits from Act . . .

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charged with the protection of the Village Corporation and its stockholders. So, the board must use a cautious approachment to any proposed investment by the Village Corporation and must be of the highest standards at least a 75% chance of proven success.

We must as a board not invest the stockholders' money of Village or Regional Corporations like the State of Alaska did where they invested \$18 million and lost \$6 million, plus, a million in interest.

The picture should be clear to all Federal and State Agencies that the Indian did not get a hell of a lot of money per person after all. They should also take a clear look at the proposed cuts in the Indian programs. There is no way we can, at this time, take over even the modest part of any welfare, social, or educational programs from the State of Alaska or the Federal Government. Now that we know where we stand, we more than ever before, will need the continued use of the D-2, D-1, and State lands and streams for our subsistence life. Any monies that the Indians are going to get is a long way off. However, in our plans, we will use the Land Claims Act to start building a future for our Indian developments of programs, businesses, industrial developments, and the utilization and preservations of our lands.

I ask again all of you to take a good look at the Land Claims Act before making your decisions final. You must give the Indian an equal chance. The same chance you want if you were in his shoes.



Mitch Demientieff

... his first state race

communications, especially in Alaska's rural villages.

The cutback in the State Operated Schools budget has hurt rural education, said the candidate. He was also disappointed that the state legislature failed to increase the boarding home appropriation for 1974-75, as requested by TCC.

Demientieff would also like to see the end to the "speculation" that develops among a village's residents when state troopers suddenly arrive without prior notice. "I think a contact person should be appointed by the State Police in each village so that someone local will know what is happening when troopers arrive," he said.

Demientieff intends to attend the justice conference slated June 10-12 at Minto.

The candidate is a graduate of Nenana High School and attend the University of Alaska. He currently serves on the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights and previously was chairman of the human resources committee of the Alaska Feder-