

Humane Society's Highest Award

By JILL SHEPHERD

Monday night Roger Burggraf of College was presented the American Humane Society's highest honor—the Stillman Award. Burggraf is the first Alaskan recipient of this award.

Mrs. Jim Thompson, president of the Fairbanks Humane Society, cited Burggraf for outstanding valor in the rescue of 50 sled dogs during the August, 1967 Fairbanks flood.

The award was accepted by Burggraf, a local banker.

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at a regular business meeting of the Alaska Dog Musher's Association, of which he is president.

Mrs. Thompson said that Burggraf, upon learning that approximately 50 dogs of the Midnight Sun Kennel owned by Lefty Schallock were being surrounded by flood waters, drove through water to the kennel.

There he found all of the dogs, who are normally staked out on posts next to their houses, standing in water. Some dogs were swimming and some, whose chains were caught on the posts near the ground, were just managing to keep their noses above water.

Burggraf shed his clothing and swam or waded from dog to dog, sometimes diving under water to free a stubborn chain. When all but one (which drowned) of the dogs had been released, Burggraf was forced to flee to higher ground, but not before his car stalled and was towed to safety through the flood waters.

Once at his home in the foothills, Burggraf met two dog mushers, John and Harold Greenway, and together with Peter Argetsinger, traveled to the nearby home of Jack Distad,

a past president of the dog mushers.

With Distad's two boats, the four men returned to the Schallock Kennel, captured the loose dogs and loaded them into the boats. They then transferred the sled dogs into trucks and on to the Burggraf home.

In accepting the Stillman

Award, Burggraf said, "I feel as though this award is meant for all those persons who rescued animals from the flood. I am deeply honored."

Mrs. Thompson reported that news stories of the rescue would appear in the Alaskan Sportsman and in the Humane Society's own publication.